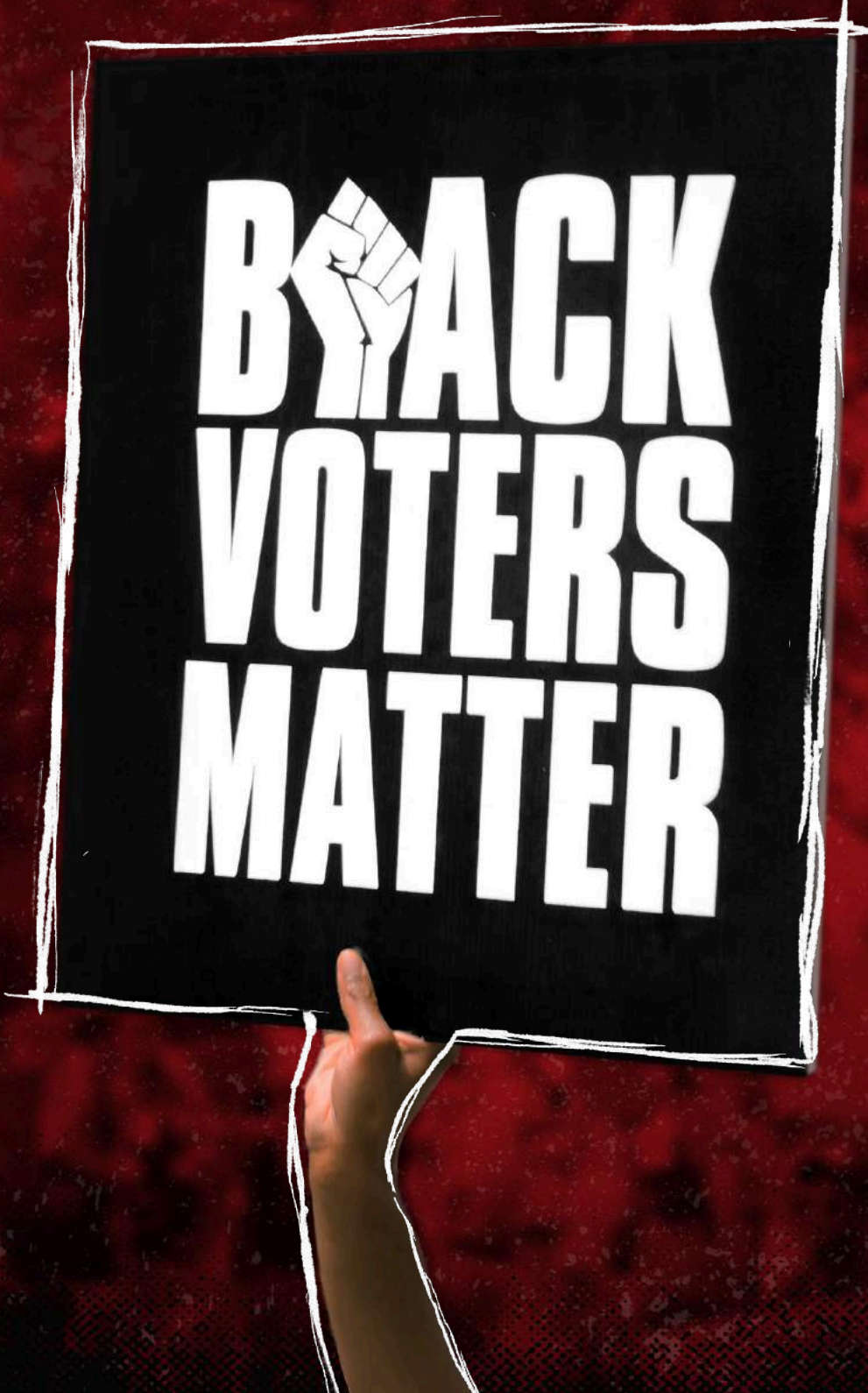


2023

# IMPACT REPORT

A hand is visible at the bottom, holding the bottom edge of a black rectangular sign. The sign has white text and a white fist icon. The background is a dark red, textured surface.

**BACK  
VOTERS  
MATTER**



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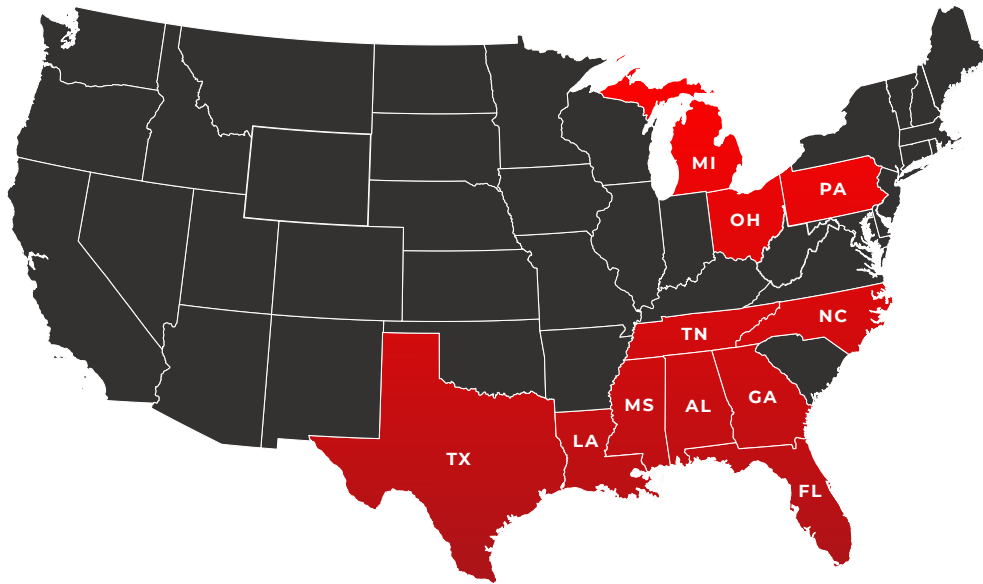
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## NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

In the following states we support work, provide grant funding, outreach tools, training opportunities and media amplification.

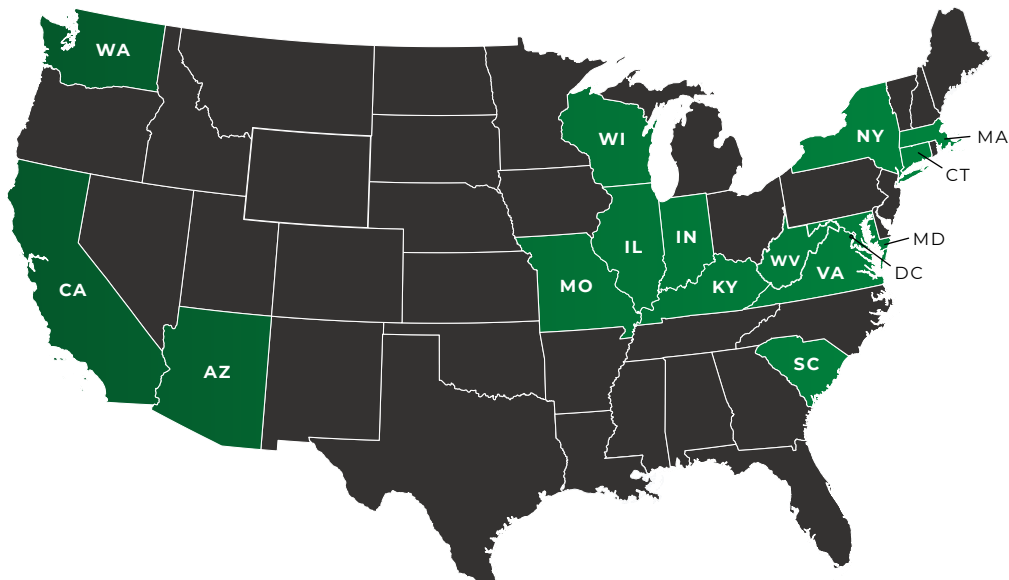
### CORE STATES

In “core states”, we have state-based BVM organizers who help provide support.



### UJIMA STATES

In “ujima states” we don’t have local staff members, but still support state partner networks.







## FUNDING OUR COMMUNITIES

### *Revenue & Expenses*

#### BVM CAPACITY BUILDING INSTITUTE

##### REVENUE

**\$20,939,506.92**

##### EXPENSES

**\$16,482,343.76**

#### BLACK VOTERS MATTER FUND












##### REVENUE





**\$3,321,439.53**

##### EXPENSES

**\$3,511,182.88**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: **\$5,689,400***Funds Granted:*

CORE	State	Partners	Amount
	 Alabama	37	\$267,850
	 Florida	61	\$407,150
	 Georgia	95	\$1,155,400
	 Louisiana	34	\$423,200
	 Michigan	35	\$605,500
	 Mississippi	37	\$484,300
	 North Carolina	32	\$262,700
	 Ohio	6	\$163,300
	 Pennsylvania	36	\$270,950
	 Tennessee	13	\$187,000
	 Texas	75	\$876,500

UJIMA	State	Partners	Amount
	 Arizona	3	\$65,000
	 Delaware	1	\$5,000
	 Illinois	1	\$30,000
	 Kentucky	6	\$85,000
	 Massachusetts	1	\$50,000
	 Maryland	1	\$1,500
	 New York	1	\$4,000
	 South Carolina	13	\$156,650
	 Virginia	5	\$67,900
	 West Virginia	3	\$12,500
	 Wisconsin	4	\$86,000

**24**  
**STATES**

**501**  
**PARTNERS**

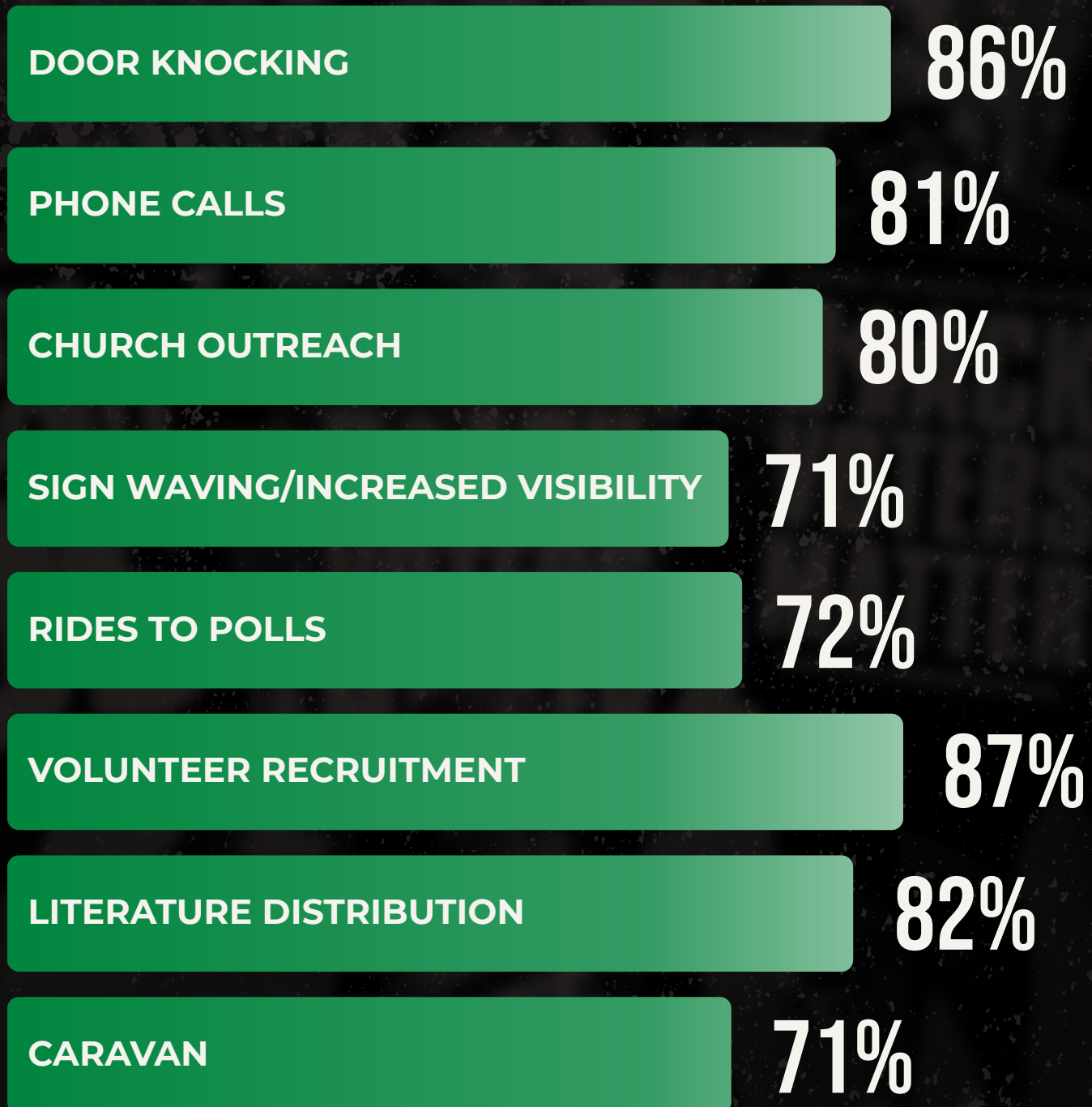
**184**  
**COUNTIES**



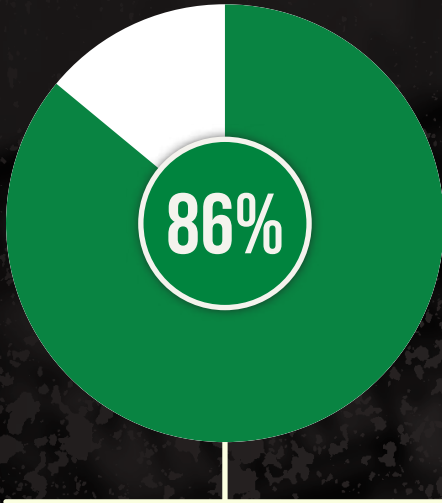
**PARTNERS FIGHT INEQUALITY, ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE,  
AND DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.**

**YOUR FUNDING EMPOWERS THEM TO EXPAND THEIR  
IMPACT.**

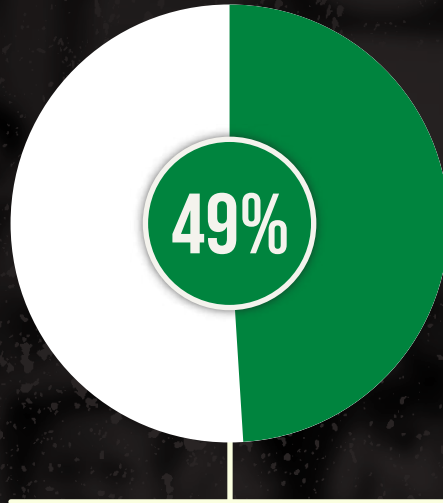
Ways BVM helped increase voter engagement on the ground:



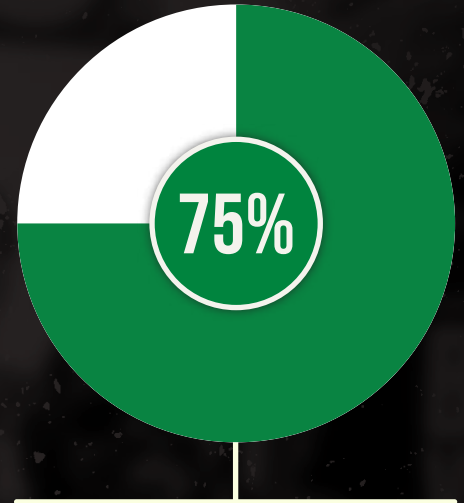
## IN WHAT WAYS HAS BVM HELPED INCREASE OUR PARTNERS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY?



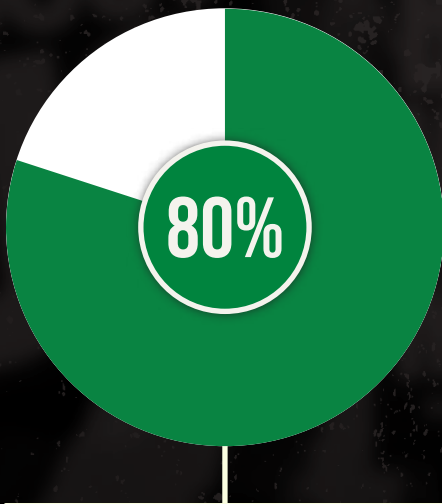
Increased the number of volunteers your organization was able to recruit to assist with GOTV or voter outreach efforts



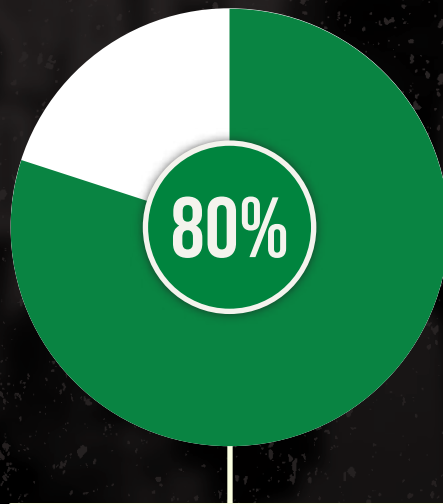
Increased the number of staff you were able to hire to assist with GOTV or voter outreach efforts



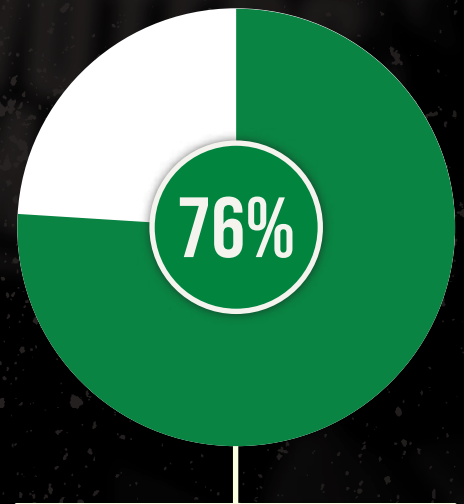
Increased the number of events or activities your organization was able to host to increase voter engagement in your community



Increased your organization's ability to purchase resources (food, materials, supplies) for your GOTV and voter outreach efforts



Increased the visibility of your organization's work in your community



Increased your organization's ability to circulate information about your organization's work and voter outreach efforts





## THE POWER OF POLICIES: IMPACTING COMMUNITIES



BVM Policy Corners are an educational resource for our communities to engage on the issues beyond elections by connecting policy and grassroots work in one place, while highlighting our work, the community centered advocacy of our partners and larger coalition work. **We are intentional in our focus on state and municipal level policy impacts our communities that is justice centered.** They serve as a safe space for us to engage unapologetically. BVM policy corners covered a range of topics including Cop City, attacks on Black history, and protecting Black women's reproductive healthcare choices.

## VOTING RIGHTS AND VOTER ENGAGEMENT

This year, BVM worked on informing our communities about policy changes ahead of the 2024 general elections.



Meanwhile, 6 states have passed 7 laws aimed at election oversight, which will all be active by the November 2024 elections.



14 states have enacted 17 new laws that tighten voting regulations. A significant portion of these laws focus on limiting vote-by-mail options.



On the brighter side, 23 states have introduced 47 laws intended to make voting easier, with standout comprehensive voter-support legislation in Colorado, Michigan, and New York.





**Our policy efforts don't just stop at voting rights;** we're also focusing on a range of critical issues including fostering Direct Democracy, defending Educational Integrity from attacks on Black History and censorship, challenging Anti-CRT (Critical Race Theory) movements, navigating ongoing Redistricting Litigation in the courts, and advocating for the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting systems.

## IN 2023, BVM WAS INVOLVED IN LITIGATION AROUND THE FOLLOWING REDISTRICTING COURT CASES:



1

BLACK VOTERS MATTER  
CAPACITY BUILDING  
INSTITUTE V. BYRD

2

ALLEN V.  
MILLIGAN

4

ROBINSON V.  
ARDOIN

3

ALEXANDER V.  
SOUTH CAROLINA



## ORGANIZING AROUND THE ISSUES

The Block Is Hot is an environmental justice initiative designed to **support and educate Black communities by raising awareness of three environmental justice issues that disproportionately affect the Black community**, including food insecurity, poor quality housing, and clean drinking water paired with increasing utility costs. BVM understands the direct link between access to nutritious food and overall health. Communities that lack access to healthy nutritious food and clean water experience higher instances of obesity, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. It's also these communities who typically lack access to healthcare.



**12** MEDEX HEALTHCARE  
RESOURCE FAIRS

**800K+**  
TEXT MESSAGES SENT

**7** STATES  
TARGETED

NORTH CAROLINA  
MISSISSIPPI  
FLORIDA  
GEORGIA  
TEXAS  
ALABAMA  
SOUTH CAROLINA



In 2023, we announced our “Sick and Tired” campaign to mobilize Black voters, young people, grassroots organizers and policymakers to rally behind Medicaid expansion. Our goal was clear: **to tear down barriers to equitable and affordable healthcare for Black and rural communities**. Through in-person forums, panels, pop-up events, sending out 800K+ text messages, and launching digital campaigns we encouraged impacted communities to join the fight, become advocates for expanded healthcare access, and reach out to elected officials with their demands.



## SOLIDARITY ECONOMY PROGRAM

Black Voters Matter Fund Solidarity Economy Program is a cooperative economic capacity building program that aims to seed and accelerate community based cooperative economic projects in our targeted states.

Prior to the launch of our Solidarity Economy Program, BVM provided Mississippi Delta Farmworkers Opportunity (MDFOI) with a seed grant of \$40,000 to help jumpstart a shared kitchen. Under the leadership of Mr. Donald Green, MDFOI was able to combine BVM's seed grant with a \$93,000 grant from USDA to build out the shared kitchen, which included plumbing, heating, lighting, renovation & refrigeration.

**\$40,000**  
SEED GRANT

**\$93,000**  
GRANT FROM USDA



With our support, MDFOI has provided a network of fifty farms with much needed equipment to cultivate and monetize their crops to supporting communities in times of need during climate related disasters. As a result of their hard work, Mississippi Delta Farmworkers Opportunity was recently selected as a grantee for USDA's Regional Food Business Centers program, which aims to **"drive economic opportunities across the region by creating a more diversified and resilient food system."** Through their partnership with the USDA, they have expanded their program and commercial kitchen, which has substantially increased their funding to 30 million.



## REPARATIONS

# \$200K

**FOR LOCAL GRASSROOTS  
GROUPS**

We announced our Black Reparations Fund of \$200K to support local grassroots groups' efforts to hold locally appointed reparations taskforce committees accountable. These groups are responsible for advancing the development of reparations plans and driving support of local policy initiatives to help close the racial wealth gap starting in Asheville, North Carolina and Boston, Massachusetts.

# \$50K

**CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT**

Our partner at New Democracy Coalition received a \$50K capacity building grant to support their grassroots organizing for reparations. With our support, NDC launched the People's Reparations Commission in collaboration with the Africana Studies Department at UMass Boston, which aims to ensure Boston's Black community is determining how reparations take shape in the City of Boston.

In North Carolina, the Racial Justice Coalition (RJC) was a driving force behind the Reparations Resolution passed by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County, which specifically promised reparations to Black people in the region. RJC received a \$50K grant and in-kind support to strengthen their capacity to organize and hold their reparations commission, City of Asheville, and Buncombe County, accountable.

# 3,000

**EMAILS**

With this support, RJC has continued to engage their communities and was able to get community members to send over 3,000 emails to City and County leadership questioning their commitment to deliver on the promise of reparations for their Black residents explicitly, which prompted a rapid response from both governments stating their positions.






# WARRANT CLINICS

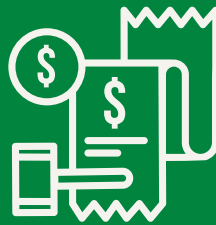
**8**  **WARRANTS CLINICS**

Held in Georgia,  
Michigan, &  
Louisiana

**704**  **WARRANTS CLEARED**

**\$280,000**

in fines and court costs  
have been forgiven.



In strategic partnership with Growing Real Alternatives Everywhere (GRAE), **the warrant clinic creates an environment where costs and fees can be waived or reduced to a payable amount.** These events are implemented through partnerships between community groups, district attorney offices and courts, without the intimidating presence of police officers.

Traditional “court processes” are being held outside of the court room in a way that seems less hostile and intimidating. Warrant traffic stops are one of the primary sources of negative interaction between Black and Marginalized communities and police departments. These stops also produce long term burdens due to the disproportionate assignment of high fines and court costs which lead to suspended license, risk of jail time, public housing denial, and a life of fear.





## YOUNG VOTER ENGAGEMENT

### Take the Field & Black Youth Renaissance

Our Take the Field and Black Youth Renaissance Programs are designed to empower young people to become active participants in the democratic process. The campaign focuses on historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other college campuses, recognizing these institutions as crucial hubs for political engagement among Black youth. In 2023, we connected with over 25 institutions on the ground to connect with young Black and brown voters.





# THE POWER OF STORYTELLING: SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

In 2023, The Blackest Bus in America was back on the road as we continued our **We Won't Black Down Campaign** in an off year, reminding our communities that engaging in the political process year-round around issues that matter to them is important. While Black voters are a significant voting base with the power to affect local and national politics, BVM recognized the need to shift the narrative because Black voters have not been represented accurately by mainstream media.

The current narrative suggests that Black voters are reactionary and candidate focused, but the reality is that we care about the issues that affect our communities. There are real implications on healthcare, reproductive freedom, housing, education, access to jobs, livable wages, and voting rights that directly impact the quality of life for Black people. **We vote because we want change.** Over the year, we worked diligently to highlight stories of resistance and those that reflect the complexities of Black life while highlighting the power of our voice and vote.

60

VOLUNTEER TRAININGS  
WITH 1,805  
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

13M+

TEXT MESSAGES SENT

653

RADIO SPOTS WITH  
1.5M+ PEOPLE REACHED  
IN MISSISSIPPI

9,818

MEDIA MENTIONS  
(8.6K ONLINE, 505  
BROADCAST, 498 PRINT)

650K+

VOTERS REACHED  
THROUGH DIGITAL ADS IN  
MS, OH, & KY

## THE POWER OF STORYTELLING: SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE [CONTINUED]



144K+

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



99.4K

TWITTER/X FOLLOWERS



101K

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



39K+

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



93K+

TIK-TOK FOLLOWERS



15K+

THREADS FOLLOWERS

**Capacity building at BVM is crucial for long-term success.** Our initiatives include training programs, implementing new technologies to improve operations, and developing strategic plans to expand services and increase impact. **In 2023, we held over 100 partner training courses** on Digital Outreach Tools (Phone banking, Canvassing, Texting), social media, Photography, Design, Fundraising, Voter Registration, Policy, and even assisting our partners with registering their organizations as a 501c3.





With almost **\$6 million granted**, in 2023, Black voters witnessed victories in several key states on several critical issues reminding us that **LOCAL ELECTIONS MATTER**:

## IN TENNESSEE

In Tennessee, The Memphis City Council runoff ended with three women winning the races for District 2, 3, and 7. BVM supported our partner, Memphis for All with community canvassing and door knocking in partnership with The Equity Alliance, they completed the following:

**150,000**  
GOTV TEXT SENT

**100,000**  
GOTV PHONE CALLS

**2,500**  
GOTV DOORS KNOCKED

## IN KENTUCKY

**\$85K** GRANTED TO  
PARTNERS OF BVM

In Kentucky, we granted **\$85K** to partners like KY BLACK, KY Commonwealth Alliance Voter Engagement (CAVE), NAACP, Until Freedom and others to get out the vote for the Governor's race targeting key cities such as Louisville, Frankfort, and Lexington. In 2023, although voter turnout decreased statewide, Black voter turnout increased in cities where BVM and partners did targeted outreach.

## IN VIRGINIA

**\$67K** GRANTED TO  
VARIOUS  
ORGANIZATIONS

In Virginia, where BVM granted over **\$67K** to organizations like Best Kept Secret – Stop the Violence, Black voters impacted control of the state legislature preventing any abortion ban. In 3 out of 5 house districts that BVM targeted, candidates reflecting Black voters priorities won, including the competitive HD97 which produced the decisive 51st Dem seat. Out of the 18 counties and independent cities that comprised the 2 senate districts and 5 house districts where BVM provided partner support, 7 of the municipalities saw Black voter turnout increases while an additional six locations remained steady in 2023.



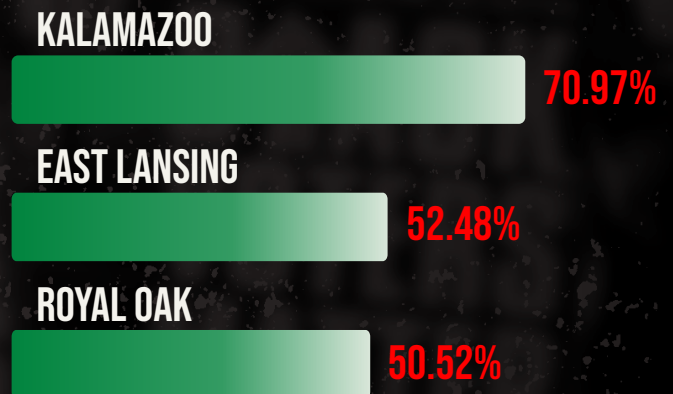
## IN OHIO

In Ohio, voters were able to pass two ballot referendums. The first enshrined a constitutional right to abortion and the second legalized recreational marijuana use. BVM supported the work of our partners like the Ohio Unity Coalition with canvassing, texting, and phone banking. Key BVM cities such as Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati voted yes at over 65% percent.



## IN MICHIGAN

In Michigan, we supported local groups like Mothers of Hope, Black Youth Vote Kalamazoo, and One GOAL for GOTV efforts with \$605K in grants. Ranked Choice Voting passed in key BVM target areas with 70.97% support in Kalamazoo, 52.48% in East Lansing, and 50.52% in Royal Oak.



## IN TEXAS

**\$876K** TO PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

In Texas, voters were able to pass important constitutional amendments (Props 6, 7, and 8) addressing water affordability, electric power generation and broadband access. BVM granted over \$876K to partners on the ground.



## IN PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania, voters made an impact in the Supreme Court race, which will have significant implications for future voting cases that have the potential to shape the results of the 2024 presidential election. Black voter turnout increased statewide compared to 2019. 5 of the 8 counties where BVM has partners saw an increase in Black voter turnout while an additional two counties remained steady in 2023.

In Pennsylvania, Black voter turnout increased to reach **27% in 2023**, compared to 26% in 2019. In BVM Counties, turnout reached 28%, among those who received text message reminders from BVM until Election Day, turnout surged to 33%.



# 27%

**BLACK VOTER  
TURNOUT IN 2023**

## IN GEORGIA



# 640,000

**TEXT MSG. SENT**

In Georgia, we provided support for partner Get Out the Vote (GOTV) outreach initiatives in over 40 counties across the Black Belt, some metro and numerous rural counties. Additionally, our partners successfully sent over 640,000 text messages using platforms such as Impactive and GetThru. Furthermore, we strategically focused on six races spanning four counties for runoff elections—Monroe, Peach, Lowndes, and Emanuel—resulting in victories for Black candidates in all targeted races.

Black voter turnout increased in municipal elections compared to 2019. Additionally, while Black voters make up 38% of the voter registrations in our partner counties, they made up 41% of the 2023 electorate in those locations.

## IN LOUISIANA

# 335,000

**BLACK VOTERS CONTACTED  
VIA TEXT, PHONE CALL,  
AND DOOR KNOCKING**



In Louisiana, across 16 Parishes our partners at Lead Louisiana, A New Chapter Push, The People's Promise Youth Division, ASAP, GRAE and RISE St. James helped contact 335,000 Black voters via texting, phone calls, and door knocking.



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS AND FUNDERS.



“Persistent and unyielding in their commitment to a just multiracial democracy, Public Wise fights to secure a government that reflects the will and protects the rights of the people. They accomplish this through education, research, organizing, funding, and partnerships that support more voting and more equitable representation. Through this work, Public Wise is working towards a democracy that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people, with a government that is representative, accountable, trusted, and transparent. Black Voters Matter is on the frontlines of the fight to build power in Black communities across the country. They are doing this work 365-days a year, every year, engaging with voters and non-voters alike to build trust and community. Their leadership has led to monumental wins, but their work must continue, and Public Wise is proud to be their champion.”

**Christine Baal Owens**

Executive Director, Public Wise



“The Woodcock Foundation is a progressive family foundation that supports efforts to improve the educational, economic, and environmental circumstances of communities in need with particular attention given to programs that encourage and reward leadership, foster entrepreneurship, and enhance the quality of life. Woodcock’s democracy program was established in 2020 and supports organizations engaging in grassroots power building, protecting voting rights, and countering mis- and disinformation. Woodcock has been proud to support BVM’s work for the past few years. BVM represents an ideal grantee partner for Woodcock for so many reasons. We appreciate the holistic approach BVM takes by building relationships with the communities it serves and focusing on relational organizing. We also appreciate BVM’s role in building a network among the local groups it supports, especially through its regranteeing program. BVM is building a movement by providing capacity support to these groups and strengthening the relationships it holds with community members. And finally, we believe that Black voters matter not only on Election Day, but on the 364 days between elections. We’re thankful to be in partnership with such an incredible organization like BVM!”

**Stacey Faella**

Executive Director, The Woodcock Foundation

[View our full list of funders and partners here.](#)





## MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

In an off year where politics could have been overlooked, Black Voters Matter stood firm in the belief that every election shapes our future: **local elections matter**. Our impact in 2023 was a testament to our mission: to empower our communities 365. We didn't just amplify voices; we've continued to mold and shape our movement and shift the narrative alongside over 500 community-based partners and granting over \$5.6

The issues at stake are too vital to rest: voting rights, reparations, environmental justice, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, Medicaid expansion, and more. Our commitment to these causes is crucial, and our support reached far and wide across 27 states.

million in the process. Our collective efforts ensured **the political process could not ignore the needs and concerns of Black voters.**

Our approach was multifaceted through strategic partnerships, grassroots organizing, capacity building, and innovative outreach. This allowed us to reach millions of Black voters and sway key elections. We witnessed the power of Black voters' voices in Governor races in Kentucky and Mississippi, even overcoming voter suppression tactics in Hinds County, Mississippi on Election Day, but still, Black voters continued to head to the polls to cast their ballot. In Michigan, the passage of Rank Choice Voting was a landmark victory. And in Ohio, we celebrated as voters affirmed the right to abortion and the legalization of marijuana through ballot referendums.

As we set our sights on a critical 2024 election season, our dedication to spreading love and building power continues. We are determined to elect representatives who prioritize our needs and issues. We are determined to continue the on-going fight for our voting rights. We continue to move forward. While we transition from, We Won't Black Down, our message remains clear: **We Fight Back.**



Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown





Join our movement.

Text **“WEMATTER”** to **25225** to stay updated on all  
things **#BlackVotersMatter**

# BLACK VOTERS MATTER

[info@blackvotersmatterfund.org](mailto:info@blackvotersmatterfund.org)

3645 Marketplace Blvd.  
Suite 130-209  
East Point, GA 30344