The Black Voters Matter team has hit the ground running once again to not only protect the vote but also provide resources and support in our communities.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month. Throughout the month we highlighted Black organizers, movement builders, and creatives. Over the last two months, Our State Coordinators and Organizers hit the ground running to get out the vote and fight against voter suppression. Take a look!
February 2021 marked the one year anniversary of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. On Feb. 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old black man, was pursued and fatally shot while jogging in Glynn County, Georgia by three white residents, who were armed and driving a pickup truck.

March 2021 marked the one year anniversary of the murder of Breonna Taylor. On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment when white plainclothes officers were executing a search warrant.

**UPDATES FROM THE FIELD**

- In the month of February, Our Deputy National Field Director, Dean Anthony II and South Carolina State Coordinator, April Richardson, hit the ground running in Denmark, South Carolina for the Mayoral Race. We continued our work of canvassing to educate our folks about what’s on the ballot.

- BVM launched our #HealthOverProfit Campaign in North Carolina with our partners to urge Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the (NC) Department of Health and Human Services to prioritize the health of our communities and make sure they have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
In March, our work on the ground continued to increase as we witnessed voter suppression bills being introduced in multiple states across the country. Due to Georgia turning blue in the 2020 election, it was one of the first states to receive national attention.

Multiple corporations have donated to the co-sponsors of voter suppression bills in the state of Georgia since 2018. With the help of our partners, we published an ad in the AJC to urge corporations to stand with Georgia voters. In addition to our ad, BVM launched a campaign to educate our folks on harmful legislation and ways they can take action.

- Our Florida Lead Organizer, Jamil Davis, was on the ground to fight against HB1, a harmful bill that would criminalize protesting. According to the bill, protestors would not have the opportunity to make bail and will face up to 15 years in prison. Watch here. Jamil also testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee in opposition to HB1.

- Black Voters Matter Co-Founders, Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown, traveled to Selma, Alabama to accept an award at the 56th Commemoration of the Voting Rights Movement from the Bridge Crossing Jubilee Foundation for their work with BVM. Take a look at what they had to say.

- Our North Carolina Senior State Coordinator, Danielle Brown and our partners were on the ground for mutual aid and voter registration. Over 2,500 doors canvassed, over 350 people fed, and COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
Our Louisiana State Coordinator, Omari Ho-Sang, and our partners held GOTV events ahead of the 5th Congressional District Election and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Special Election District 4.

In Alabama, our State Coordinator, Arnee Odoms, stood in solidarity with Amazon workers at The Amazon Union Rally. Amazon workers are calling for an improvement in the harsh working conditions at Amazon warehouses, better measures to protect workers against COVID-19, increased pay, and more.
Corporations continued to remain silent in the state of Georgia around legislation looking to restrict access to the ballot in predominantly Black communities. BVM launched another ad in the AJC to continue to put pressure on corporate leadership. These corporations continue to frame themselves as allies to the movement while funding elected officials who are looking to suppress our vote.

For example, Coca-Cola has donated over $30,000 to politicians co-sponsoring voter suppression bills while supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. We decided to take action by heading to the World of Coca-Cola to urge Coke to Protect the Vote! Our protest went viral on social media and trended #3 on Twitter worldwide!

Coca-Cola was only the first stop! BVM launched a week of action at corporations/buildings in the state of Georgia to urge them to stand with voters. These places included:
- Airport Delta Terminal
- UPS
- Georgia Governor’s Mansion
- Georgia State Capitol

Our Co-Founders, Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown, headed to the Delta airport to protest against SB 202 and call on Delta to take action. Unfortunately, that same day, Governor Brian Kemp signed SB 202 into law. We immediately joined our friends at New Georgia Project and Rise, Inc. in suing the state of Georgia. We also stood in solidarity with Rep. Park Cannon who was wrongfully arrested for knocking on the door of Brian Kemp as he was signing the bill into law.

Read our statement here.
The Blackest Bus in America is now in Texas! To close out the month of March, we officially announced that BVM has expanded to the lone star state! BVM joined our new partners at the Texas Organizing Project, FIX SAPD, and MOVE Texas to get out the vote, talk police accountability, spread love, and build power.

The BVM team visited: San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston! Take a look at our recap videos in San Antonio and Fort Worth.

We joined our partners at AT&T Dallas HQ to urge the corporation to take a stand against voter suppression. AT&T has donated a total of $574,500 to sponsors/elected officials in Texas pushing bills to restrict voting. Following the protest, we joined local organizations to launch an Accountability Campaign targeting Texas businesses that support voter suppression and published an ad in the newspaper.

The movement to suppress the vote continues. Be sure to text "WeMatter" to 797979 to learn how you can get involved.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

March is International Women’s Month! Here at BVM we would like to honor two women led organizations that have donated to BVM! Check Out below why they choose to support BVM and our mission to build power in our communities.

At Women Donors Network we are building towards a world where all people enjoy human rights and freedom from discrimination, violence, and oppression; where we are able to use environmental resources sustainably; and where all communities have equal access to economic opportunity. Prioritizing resources for women-led and Black, Indigenous, and people of color-led organizations is essential to this and core to our funding.

"We’re proud to support the critical work of Black Voters Matter and their game-changing voter engagement work. Black voters are building power, winning elections, and changing the political possibilities in our country.” – WDN

Way to Win is a national hub for donors with a data-based approach to political funding that wins elections, advances transformative policy, and builds lasting power in the states. Way to Win works in partnership with those most impacted by injustice to win near-term elections to expand the electorate, to improve lives, and to achieve a representative democracy that works for all.

“Black Voters Matter’s work has changed the narrative and has uplifted the voices of voters who have historically been ignored, overlooked, or taken for granted in the political process. Way to Win is inspired by the way Black Voters Matter brings together sharp political strategy, love for humanity, and the joy of organizing to push for a world of justice and equality that we all want to live in.” - Way to Win
BVM IN THE MEDIA

Take a look at some of our favorite media highlights:

- MSNBC Reid Out
- MSNBC Rachel Maddow
- Reuters
- CNN
- MSNBC
- News One
- USA Today
- Huffington Post
- Blavity

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