

# CELEBRATING FREEDOM

## JUNE WRAP-UP REPORT



This month, we celebrate freedom. On June 19, 1865, a Union general arrived in Galveston, Texas. He informed enslaved African Americans they were emancipated at the conclusion of the Civil War. They'd been enslaved for two months more than the end date because news of their freedom had not reached them. More than 250,000 African Americans were freed.



We celebrate Black lives, organizing, determination, and movement leaders. We are reminded of our history and the work still to be done towards Black liberation. While BVM was on the ground in our core states, we were also in Washington D.C. alongside the Poor People's Campaign at the Moral March on Washington and to the Polls to continue the fight for healthcare, living wages, affordable housing, voting rights, and more. As our Co-Founder, [LaTosha Brown](#) stated at the Moral March, "Part of what oppression is meant to do, is to make us believe that we don't have any power. It's to make us believe that we don't have purpose."

Missed the march? You can view the replay [here](#).

## ROE V. WADE

Even while we celebrate freedom in the spirit of Juneteenth, we cannot forget the work to make sure freedom and the right to choose is still possible. This month, we witnessed the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade following a 5-4 vote.

Black lives are at stake and we are not going to let a Court that still doesn't have a Black woman representative decide what rights we do and do not have. We know the fullness of our humanity must be protected and respected – at all times. While this decision is shameful, demeaning and dangerously violent, if we are forced to organize to expand or change the Court to protect the lives of childbearing people, then that is what we will do.

Read our full statement [here](#).

# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## FREEDOM SUMMER

It is a Freedom Summer! This month we wrapped up our Warrant Clinic Bus Tour in Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas assisting over 250 people in getting warrants for their arrest cleared! Warrants can prevent many from obtaining a driver's license, having access to employment, housing, and even the right to vote.

Take a look at our [Juneteenth Teach-In](#) to learn more about our Warrant Clinics and how we are reimagining freedom.



## GEORGIA

In Georgia we held a Justice Bus Tour to raise awareness around SB 105 probation while distributing termination and expungement information. SB 105 is a bill that allows people to pursue early termination of their felony probation sentence. Did you know in Georgia, there are more people on probation than any other state in the country? Black people are two times more likely to be on probation.

We also visited Macon for the 30th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival and Dublin for a Parade and Caravan ahead of the Primary Runoff Election Day. Take a look at our work on the ground!

# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## MICHIGAN

In Michigan we visited Benton Harbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon Heights, and Pontiac to connect for voter engagement/registration and engaging with our communities around important issues. Such as:

- Clean air and water
- Criminal Justice
- Jobs and wages
- Voting Rights
- Healthcare
- Utility bills
- Housing



## MISSISSIPPI

We were on the ground in Mississippi for their primary election to make sure our communities are heading to the polls!

Stay updated with our work on the ground, be sure to text MISSISSIPPI to 25225!

# BVM LEADERSHIP UPDATES

## CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Our Co-Founders, Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown, and our National Legal Director, April Albright, were at the #CultureOfDemocracy Summit for a conversation on how we protect democracy, fight voter suppression, and ensure everyone has equal access to the ballot. The fight for voting rights continues.

Join the movement, [take the pledge to protect the vote.](#)



## PRIDE IN NY

June is not just a celebration of freedom, but a celebration of pride! To honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan that transformed the movement for LGBTQ+ liberation.

Our Co-Founder, LaTosha Brown was on the ground in NYC with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, GLSEN, Planned Parenthood, and Black Led Movement Fund to lead a march around LGBTQ rights and reproductive justice.



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

**PRO**GEORGIA  
VALUES. VOICES. VOTES.



ProGeorgia is a bold, trusted, and diverse collaborative that champions an equitable and inclusive democracy for and with traditionally underrepresented communities. It supports and coordinates the civic engagement programs of its diverse partner organizations. ProGeorgia develops the infrastructure, executes the joint strategies, and employs new tools and technology to assure a government that is more responsive to the needs of all Georgia residents, especially those whose voices and interests tend to be unserved or underrepresented.

*“ProGeorgia supports Black Voters Matter's coordinated civic and community engagement efforts because it is a trusted partner that consistently prioritizes rural communities of color. BVM ensures all Georgians of Color, particularly Black Georgians outside of the commonly targeted metro areas, have their voices heard and are not made invisible in the civic engagement space. This approach has been very successful in GOTV, VR, and Census outreach efforts, and ProGeorgia is a proud to be in partnership with BVM.”* - ProGeorgia

# BVM IN THE MEDIA

CHECKOUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS!

- [NewsOne](#)
  - [Vox](#)
  - [MSNBC](#)
  - [Vogue](#)
  - [New York Times](#)
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