

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

June Wrap-Up Report



CELEBRATING JUNE WITH PRIDE

As we celebrate Pride Month, it is important to acknowledge the harsh realities that the LGBTQ+ community faces in the United States. More than 500 anti-LGBTQ bills threaten their rights, with discrimination creeping into education and healthcare. Despite this, we draw hope from the tireless efforts of activists fighting for equality alongside us.

Take a look at our June Wrap-Up Report!

FREEDOM SUMMER

WARRANT CLINICS



In partnership with Growing Real Alternatives Everywhere (GRAE), we announced the kick-off of our 2023 Warrant Clinics Tour as a part of the organization's Freedom Summer campaign. BVM and GRAE will offer ONE-DAY community court clinics in multiple states through the end of the year, beginning with Pontiac, MI in June. The program is designed to help individuals regain a sense of normalcy and freedom by eliminating outstanding traffic, misdemeanor, and in some cases, lower-level felony warrants.

Read our full statement [here](#).

We kicked off our first Warrant Clinic in Pontiac, Michigan, helping 80 people clear over \$2,400 worth of warrants. When we talk about building power, it's not just about voting. It's about how we transform the lives of the people in our communities.

Thank you to our amazing Michigan Partners at Oakland Forward, Our Own Wall Street, and The Michigan Coalition on Black Civic Participation!

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

NORTH CAROLINA

The "Blackest Bus in America" has hit the road yet again! Our NC Supreme Court Justice Tour took us across the state, where we had the opportunity to educate our community about significant cases taken on by the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Together, we shed light on important voting rights issues such as voter IDs, gerrymandering, and returning citizens. Our ultimate goal was to promote a fair and inclusive democratic process for all.



TEXAS

Black Voters Matter, together with our amazing local partners, embarked on a journey across the great state of Texas for our Texas Demand Justice Bus Tour! We are determined to ensure that justice, fairness, and equality prevail in our democracy and come together with one voice.

Our efforts to increase voter engagement and turnout for the Joint Runoff Election on June 10 were still ongoing, as we remained committed to empowering voters!

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

JUNETEENTH RECAP

BVM announced our [Juneteenth community event schedule](#), as part of our ongoing We Won't Black Down campaign and bus tour! The weekend of community events were designed to empower Black people as they reflect on the history and significance of Juneteenth, the work for Black liberation, and ways to continue fighting for the protection of Black families.

The Blackest Bus in America made its way to Texas, the birthplace of Juneteenth, where we proudly took part in the Juneteenth Walk for Freedom in Fort Worth led by the incredible educator and movement leader, Opal Lee, famously known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth. Alongside vibrant members of the community, local organizations, and dedicated partners, we came together to redefine what the concept of freedom means to us and to our communities. Lee remains committed to upholding educational equity and social justice for all, and we could not be prouder to have stood with her.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

JUNETEENTH RECAP

Black Voters Matter made history in several states including Michigan, Delaware, Florida, and Georgia among others. Our powerful rallies and community empowerment events were a testament to our unity and our mission. Our voices could be heard echoing through the streets as we emphasized the significance of every vote. But it wasn't just about rallies and events. We were shaping our narrative, reclaiming our power, and paving the way for future generations.

We showed up, showed out, and made a difference!



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

STAY WOKE FLORIDA



June came to a close in the Sunshine State, Florida, where we embarked on the 'Stay Woke' Florida Bus Tour alongside our partners, the Transformative Justice Coalition (TJC), Florida NAACP, Rainbow Push Coalition, and others. Our goal was to fight back against the suppression of democratic principles, ideas, and academic freedom in Florida.

Florida has become a battleground for democratic principles, ideas, and academic freedom. Our rights and education are threatened by legislation that would ban inclusive books, divest from diverse schools, and criminalize teaching American History. We traveled across the state to raise awareness and demand action!

BLACK REPARATIONS FUND

REPARATIONS NOW

In an effort to help close the racial wealth gap, Black Voters Matter (BVM) announced the Black Reparations Fund, a new initiative under the We Won't Black Down campaign that will 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.

Direct capacity building grants totaling \$150K will be awarded to grantees starting in Asheville, North Carolina and Boston, Massachusetts.

Each grantee will also receive \$50K in additional in-kind services, such as technical assistance, for a total of \$200K in support.

Read our full statement [here](#).

Tune in to our Policy Corner: "**We Got Juneteenth, What About Dem Reparations Tho?**" to hear from some of our grantees!

[WATCH HERE](#)

TAKE ACTION WITH BVM

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thank you to every Texting Tuesday's volunteer.

This month, they helped us to build power through community action!

Volunteers sent over **170K text messages** to Ohio, Georgia, and North Carolina. Their efforts helped us to increase participation at our community events where we were able to engage residents around environmental justice, police reform, oppressive legislation, and other issues facing our communities.

40 new volunteers started their power building journey this month when they joined us at our biweekly orientations. They learned all the ways they could volunteer, and we discussed what power means to us.

Here is what a few of our volunteers had to say:

*I believe power is love and education!!
We have to build and continue to educate our children and families, know our history, understand cultures, know our rights share our stories.*

Decisions being made with my input and in consideration of the entire community.

Being an integral part of the decision-making process and having a place in resource acquisition, development and use and have ownership of those things to impact your life and community.

BVM IN THE MEDIA

CHECKOUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MIDTERM MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS!

- [The Grio](#)
- [The Messenger](#)
- [Texas Signal](#)
- [19th News](#)
- [American Press](#)

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**BLACK
VOTERS
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BlackVotersMatterFund.org