

I MATTER. YOU MATTER. WE MATTER.

BACK VOTERS MATTER

BlackVotersMatterFund.org

2022 IMPACT REPORT

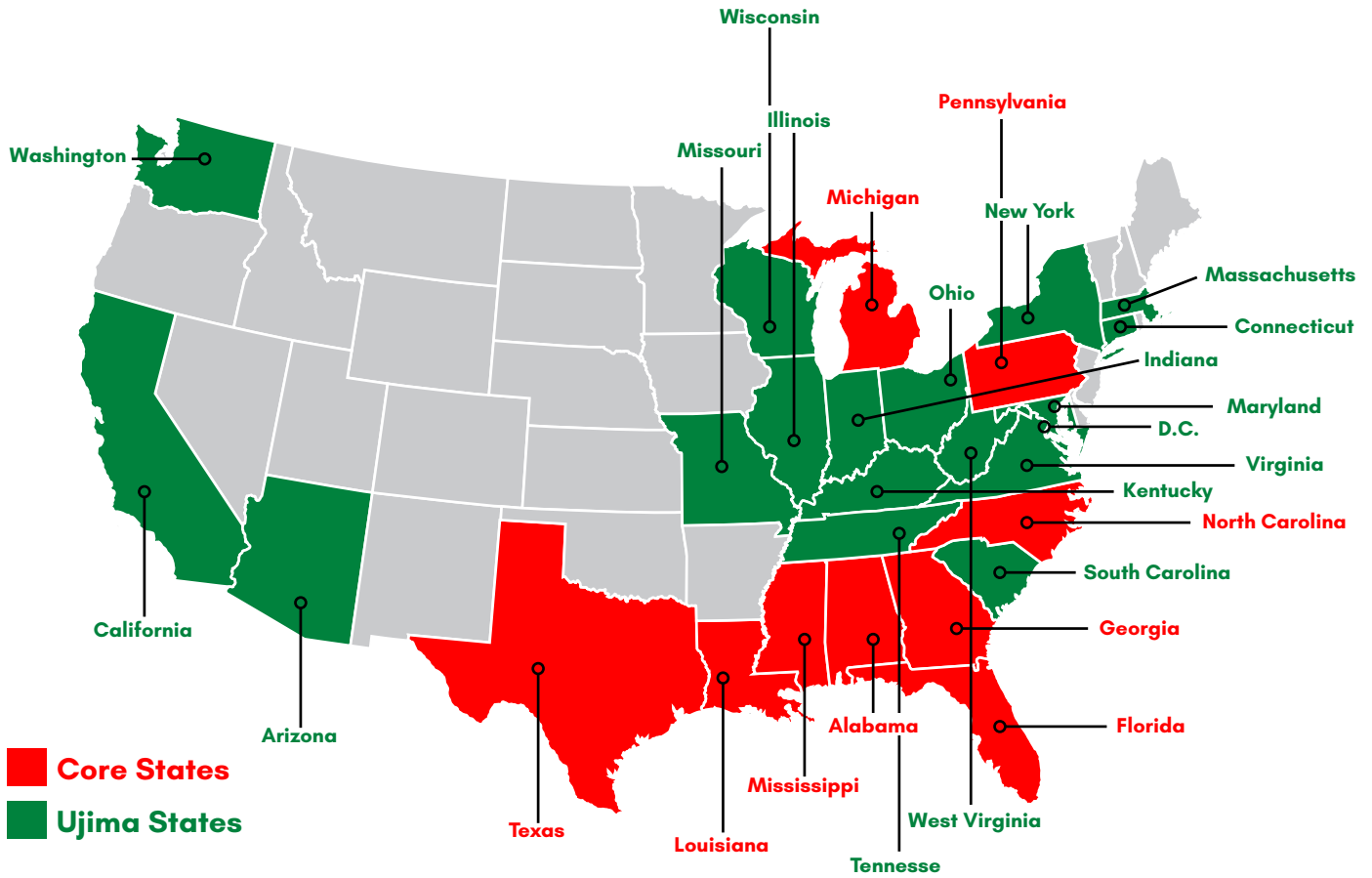


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NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

In the following states we support work, provide grant funding, outreach tools, training opportunities and media amplification. In “**core states**”, we have state-based BVM organizers who help provide this support, while in our “**ujima states**” we don’t have local staff members but still support state partner networks.



FUNDING OUR COMMUNITIES

Revenue and Expenses

BVM Capacity Building Institute

Revenue

\$20,342,079.35

Expenses

\$24,071,678.62

Black Voters Matter Fund

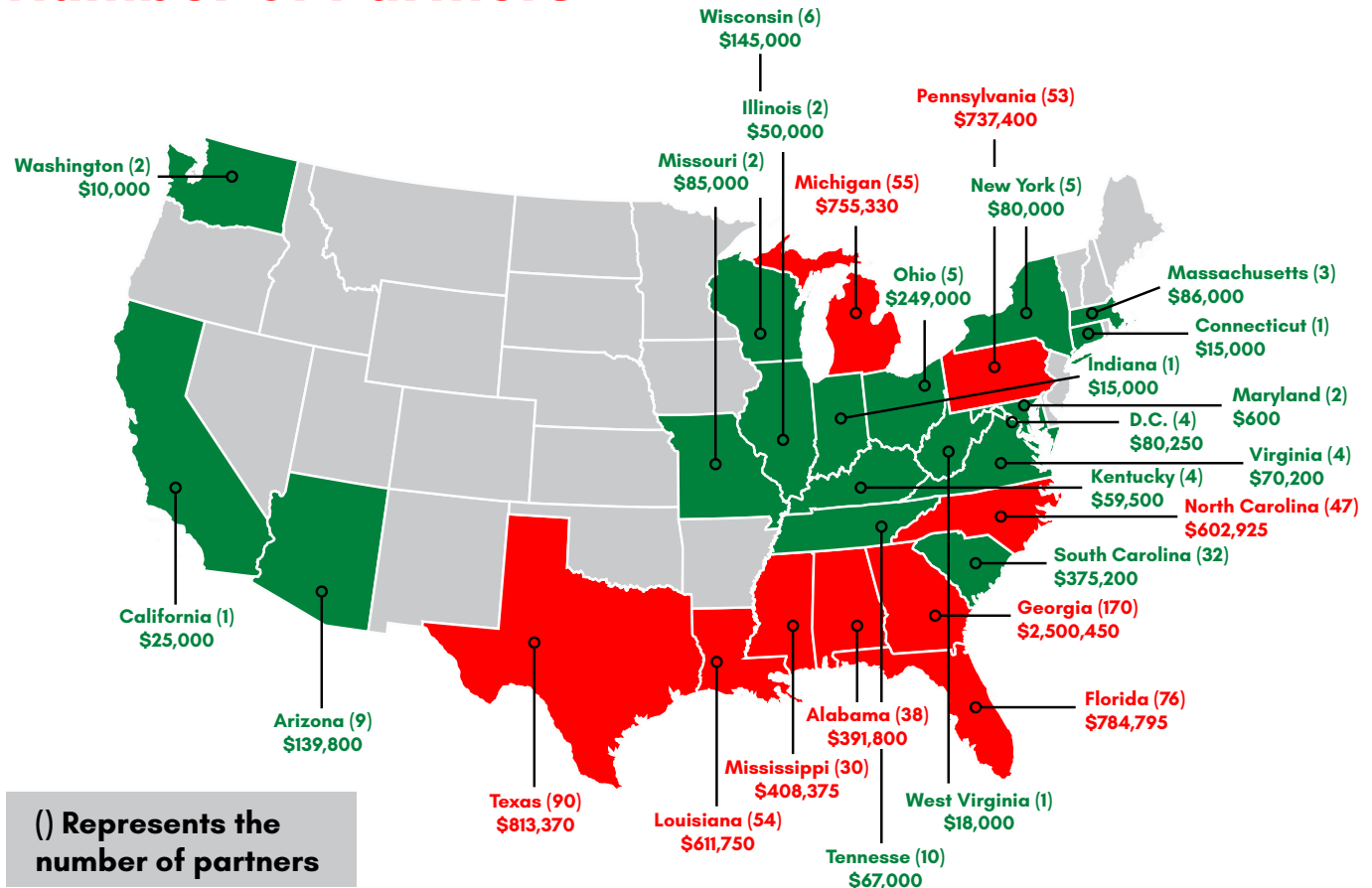
Revenue

\$5,636,677.26

Expenses

\$6,101,822.72

Funds Granted in States and Number of Partners



Black Voters Matter partnered with the The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in which we invested \$450K in grants to be dispersed across 13 states in support of church-led GOTV efforts throughout the South for our We Won't Black Down Bus Tour. We also invested \$120K to Black Men Build across multiple states.

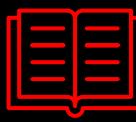
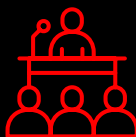
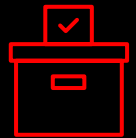
BUILDING CAPACITY 365



Our partners play a pivotal role in addressing systemic inequalities, advocating for the rights of marginalized communities, and promoting social change. Financial support is essential to their effective functioning and the broader cause they serve. Adequate funding enables non-profit organizations to maintain and expand their programs and services continuing a positive impact within the communities they serve.



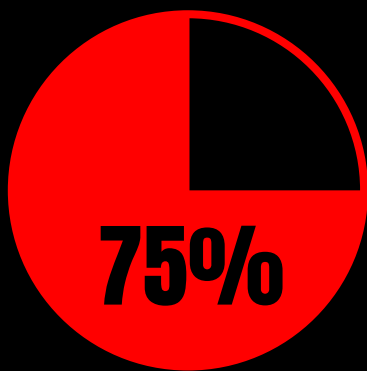
In what ways has BVM helped increase our partners GOTV or voter engagement activities on the ground?



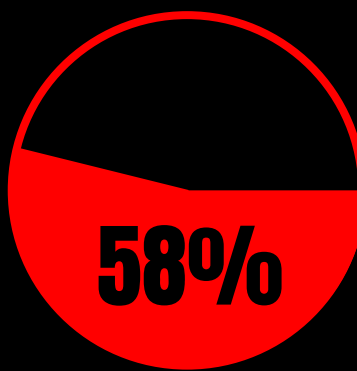


In what ways has BVM helped increase our partners organizational capacity?

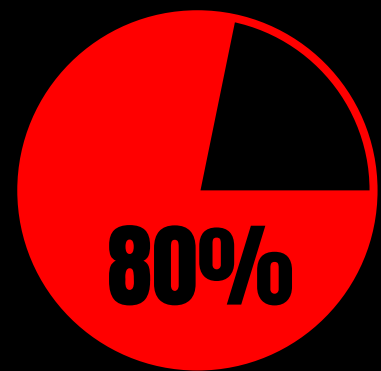
We surveyed over 600 partners.



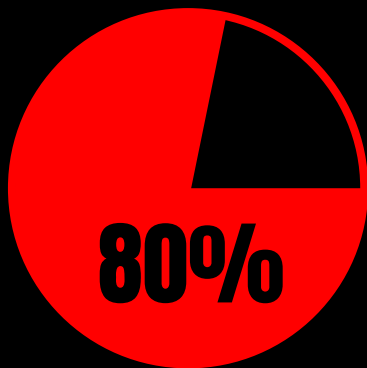
Increased the number of volunteers your organization was able to recruit to assist with GOTV or voter outreach efforts



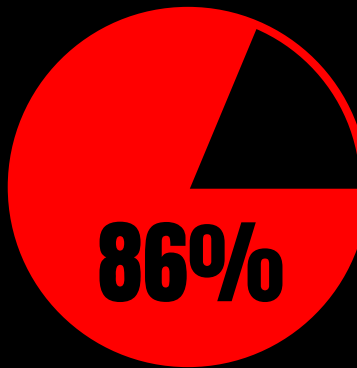
Increased the number of staff you were able to hire to assist with GOTV or voter outreach efforts



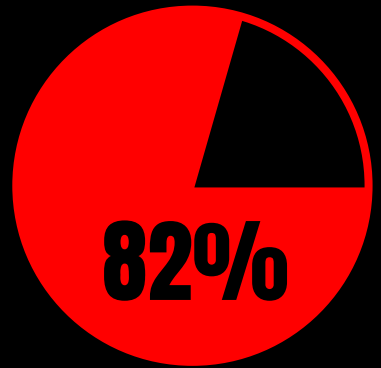
Increased the number of events or activities your organization was able to host to increase voter engagement in your community



Increased your organization's ability to purchase resources (food, materials and 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



Scan here to view our Policy Corner YouTube Playlist

Black Voters Matter Fund is not a traditional policy “think tank.” Instead, BVM believes that organizing and direct action can also impact and change policy in the same way that marches, boycotts, and litigation helped to bring change in the “Jim Crow South” regarding voting and civil rights, despite the hostile resistance of southern state legislatures.

To this end, BVM uses the same three prong strategy (protest, organizing, direct action, and litigation) to implement its policy goals. BVM’s main policy goals since the inception of its policy department in 2021 have been to increase voting rights policies, expand democratic representation of Black and Marginalized communities, expand Medicaid in our core states, and decrease negative interactions with police officers while also reducing fines, court cost and re-instating driver licenses privileges so our communities can freely re-engage in the political process and be a part of the change they are seeking without fear.



ORGANIZING AROUND THE ISSUES

Voting Rights



Scan here to view our
Selma YouTube Playlist

13 Colleges engaged



6 National partners



Since 2021, Black Voters Matter (BVM) has fought against regressive voting laws in several states and supported federal voting rights legislation. Additionally, BVM has pressured corporations in Georgia, Florida and Texas to oppose bills like SB 202, SB 1 and SB 90. Battling restrictive laws in core states continues to remain a key priority for BVM.

BVM and other organizations sponsored a nine-day “Freedom Ride for Voting Rights” tour to garner grassroots support for federal legislation. Over 200 corporations signed a letter urging Congress to pass voting rights bills. BVM co-founders were arrested multiple times demanding filibuster removal for voting rights legislation. Although specific bills didn't pass, their efforts influenced the passage of the Electoral Count Act.

BVM sued Florida and Georgia to challenge restrictive provisions of SB 90 (Florida) and SB 202 (Georgia). While cases are still pending, BVM remains hopeful that successful lawsuits will ensure greater protection and ballot access for all citizens in these states.

In a spirited effort to keep our movement alive, Black Voters Matter brought together residents, voters, HBCU students and supporters for an exhilarating few miles of the 57th Selma Anniversary march, accompanied by enlightening teach-ins. Additionally, we kicked off our ambitious “1 Million for Voting Rights” campaign to rally one million individuals in preparation for a bustling election year.





Warrant Clinics

270 Warrants cleared



15 Warrant clinics held in North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama



\$250,000

Fines and court costs have been forgiven



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 for Black and Marginalized communities due to the disproportionate assignment of high fines and court costs which lead to suspended licenses and the inability for people to pay the cost which puts them at risk for jail time, public housing denial and a life of fear. BVM created warrant clinics to establish an environment where these costs and fees can be waived or reduced to a payable amount. These clinics are implemented through partnerships between community groups, district attorney offices and courts without the intimidating presence of police officers. Our warrant clinics are also helping to reduce hostility and intimidation often associated with traditional “court processes” by holding them outside of the courtroom.

FREEDOM SUMMER

Warrant Clinic Story

I was at the warrant clinic y'all had in San Antonio and I just wanted to reach out to say THANK YOU for all that y'all have done in and for our communities.

Just to give a little background on my situation- I recently walked away from a physically, mentally and emotionally abusive relationship spanning years, ended up at the Battered Women and Children's shelter with my two kids and absolutely nothing, and on top of that, left with the task of rebuilding my life. With the support of my case managers at the shelter I was able to get a job, get back in school, and get an apartment. All was progressing well, except for one thing- I had no ID. To make my situation more complicated, I am a Mexican immigrant, my residency is being renewed but I could not get my DL or ID because I had unpaid traffic tickets that had now turned to warrants. With my application for US Citizenship also in place, I was dealing with the fear of that also being potentially jeopardized because of the warrants. Without my ID I cannot take my proctored tests in school, thus cannot "complete" my certifications to ultimately get a higher paying job. I have been working as a server for the past few months, and although any income helps, it isn't enough to pay my tickets/court fines etc in full all at once in order to get the warrants removed. The warrants impeding me from obtaining something as fundamental as an ID had been the most significant roadblock, even despite my already complex circumstances.

One of my case managers follows Black Voters Matter or GRAE on twitter, saw this event and relayed the info to me. I attended the event and was able to see a Judge and get my warrants removed in an environment where I felt supported, safe, and respected. I AM NOW ABLE TO GET MY ID!!!! Maybe to you all this isn't a big deal... but for me and my two kids it is a huge deal. I have no words to thank you all for organizing the event, standing behind people in difficult and complicated situations, but most of all, for doing it compassionately. I heard one of the staff, I think her name was Nikia? reassuring another person, saying it was ok to feel anxious and comforting her. I basically left in tears (of joy), it felt like GRAE helped liberate me from a traditionally rigid, complicated and intimidating judicial process that would have been essentially hindering my ability to progress as a citizen of the community. A system that more often than not seems to target minority groups; sort of strategically maintaining a level of oppression.

I was only one of a multitude of people who attended, so I cannot even imagine how many different lives you all have positively impacted.

With all the gratitude in my heart, thanks a million!

Warrant Clinic Participant in San Antonion, Texas

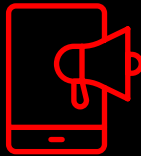
**IT'S
ABOUT
US**

THE POWER OF STORYTELLING: SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

69M+ Text messages sent



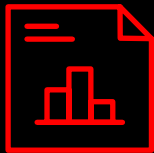
2M+ Reached through digital ads



13,559 Radio spots with over 11 million people reached



467 Media hits with 670 million people reached



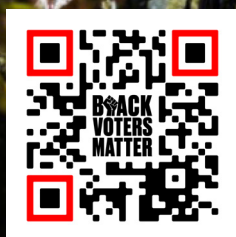
488 Volunteers engaged recruited 400,000 BVM supporters



Empowerment, Representation and Unity. Shifting the narrative to mobilize Black communities is crucial for several reasons:

- **Empower** Black communities by highlighting their strengths, accomplishments and potential.
- A balanced narrative that accurately **represents** the diversity within Black communities allows for more equitable inclusion in discussions, decision-making processes and policy formulations.
- Through letting the voices of Black individuals take center stage in conversations about their own journeys and realities, we can foster **unity** and work together towards a common objective.

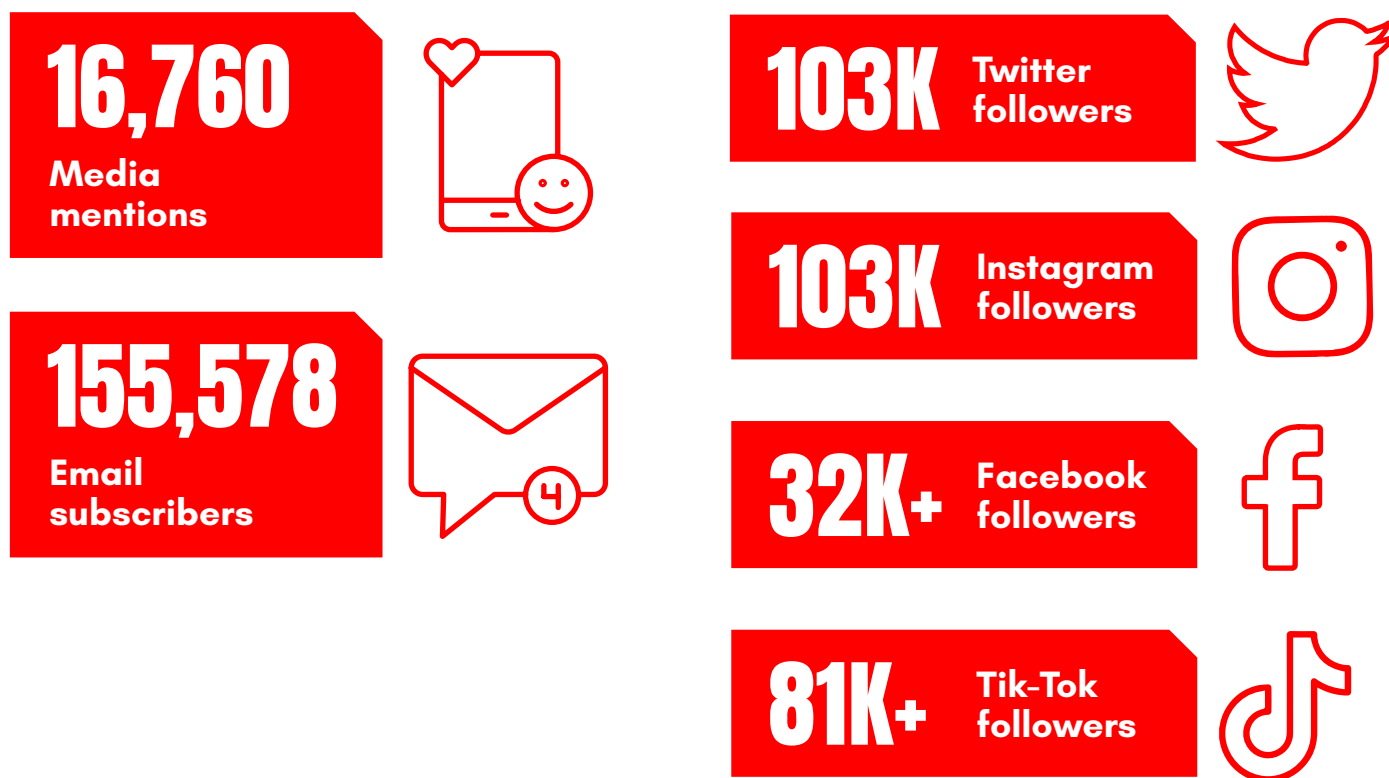
In 2022, one of the ways we engaged with shifting the narrative was through our We Won't Black Down Campaign. We brought the Blackest Bus in America back on the road and embarked on an exciting 12-state journey where we cruised through the South and Midwest, connecting with Black voters, decision-makers, faith leaders, prominent Black personalities and HBCU students. Our bus tour featured the engaging Take the Field Initiative, which concentrated on GOTV endeavors at local HBCU campuses. Additionally, we established various collaborations with renowned entities like Black Entertainment Television (BET), The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (The Divine Nine).



Scan here to view our We Won't Black Down video playlist



Digital and Media has emerged as a force to be reckoned with in shaping public perceptions and uplifting voices that were once silenced. As platforms surge in popularity, individuals from all walks of life have the opportunity to broadcast their thoughts and experiences to the world. This has sparked a revolution for historically oppressed communities, particularly Black communities.



Capacity building at BVM is crucial for long-term success. By investing in expanding resources, we are able to build power more effectively and efficiently. Capacity-building initiatives can include training programs, implementing new technologies to improve operations and developing strategic plans to expand services and increase impact. In 2022, we held **25 partner trainings** on Volunteer Action Network (VAN) to help promote volunteerism and civic engagement.

Trainings assisted with over 276 walk lists created, 682 phone banks and 500,000+ calls attempted to voters.

With over **9 million granted**, in 2022, Black voters impacted several key senate races, including **Pennsylvania** and **Arizona**, as well as key congressional districts in **Michigan**, **Ohio**, **North Carolina** and **Virginia**. We witnessed victories in a number of key states on a number of critical issues.



Black Voters Matter made a significant impact during the Senate Runoff election in **Georgia**. We distributed nearly \$2.5 million to 170 partners in 54 counties for get out the vote (GOTV) efforts. Despite obstacles such as new voting restrictions and scare tactics, like SB 202, Black voters turned out in force. Our efforts helped flip key rural counties like Baldwin blue. Key partners like Protect the Vote GA, A Better Glynn CREATE Inc. continued to play a critical role in empowering Black Georgians through voter education.



In **Pennsylvania**, where Black Voters Matter granted over \$737K to 53 partners in Erie, Allegheny, Dauphin, Berks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware - we witnessed 372 of 458 voting precincts meet or exceed the 2018 turnout. In 2022, Black voters made up 10% of the total electorate in the state, up from 8% in the 2018 election which contributed to a key win for the Senate race.



Abortion rights were protected in several states with strong Black turnout, including **Michigan**, where BVM supported 55 partners in Kalamazoo, Washtenaw, Wayne, Kent, Berrien, Oakland, Muskegon, Genesee and Ingham with over \$750K in grants.

- Partners like Mothers of Hope and One Goal helped gather petition signatures and mobilize voters for the state referendum.



In **Ohio**, key congressional districts such as Cincinnati (OH-01), Toledo (OH-09) and Akron (OH-13), with 484 of 899 voting precincts exceeded previously recorded voter turnout levels from the 2018 election.

- Furthermore, in Akron, following the June 2022 death of Jayland Walker at the hands of Akron police, 62% of voters said yes to Issue 10 — a move that will establish a community review on policing and demand that city leaders create a police oversight plan. Our local partner, The Freedom BLOC (Black Led Organizing Collaborative), received \$25K from BVM to assist with organizing efforts such as digital ads, texting and on-the-ground outreach.



Missouri voters made a major leap forward by-passing Amendment 3, which not only legalizes recreational marijuana but also ensures that those charged with nonviolent marijuana offenses in the past have their records expunged. BVM granted Action St. Louis and Decarcerate KC a total of \$85K to help with their GOTV efforts, which included digital and on-the-ground outreach.



In **Arizona**, BVM expanded its reach by investing \$139K into local groups such as Mass Liberation AZ and the Maricopa County Branch NAACP.

- This helped to increase voter turnout by 0.62% from 2018. In Maricopa County, Black turnout was up 0.76%. 483 of 860 voting precincts met or exceeded the 2018 turnout. 354 of those 483 precincts outperformed the statewide Black turnout percentage.

In southern states such as **Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana** and **North Carolina**, BVM intensified our efforts to engage young people through our Take the Field Program. Our objective was to expand the participation of Black voters and advance progressive politics from the ground up by mobilizing students nationwide to participate in issues affecting their campuses or communities. In 2022, the **Take the Field Program** and the Black Youth Renaissance Tour reached out to students across more than 20 colleges and universities.

Turnout increased amongst states

	Alabama	Georgia	Louisiana	North Carolina	Pennsylvania	Michigan	Arizona
22 to 24 Female	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 to 24 Male		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 to 34 Female	✓					✓	✓
25 to 34 Male					✓		✓
35 to 49 Female	✓						✓
35 to 49 Male	✓		✓		✓		✓
50 to 64 Female	✓					✓	✓
50 to 64 Male	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
65+ Female	✓					✓	✓
65+ Male						✓	✓

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



Scan here to view our full funder list



It's an honor to support the essential work of Black Voters Matter. LaTosha and Cliff are brilliant organizers, powerful speakers, and inspiring visionaries. Our country is at a history-defining inflection point, with increasing voter suppression, Dobbs and other authoritarian attacks on our freedoms. Fortunately, BVM is an integral part of an even more powerful coalition which is working together to build a more inclusive, stronger American democracy."

- Karla Jurvetson



I believe that the work Black Voters Matter moves the United States toward being a better and more just country. I was raised in a family where voting was important. During my personal educational journey after George Floyd was murdered, I read about the history of voting in the U.S. and was horrified at the extent of voter suppression efforts across the country in the past as well as the present. The work of Black Voters Matter resonated with me, and Mr. Cliff Albright and Ms. LaTosha Brown inspired me. I don't have the tools or personality to be comfortable going out to register voters but contributing financially is something I could do. I started working as an election poll worker during COVID and donated the stipend I earned from the last few elections to BVM. At the end of 2022, I wanted to do more and started a monthly donation."

- Nancy Fitz



The late civil rights activist John Lewis wrote, 'The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.' Preserving our democracy is an ongoing, all-hands-on-deck commitment. Patagonia works in solidarity with Black Voters Matter and other civic engagement groups to protect the vote because voters of color are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and they have the power to decide policy on the most pressing issues of our generation."

- Corley Kenna, Head of Policy and Communications, Patagonia



Democracy Frontlines Fund is proud to support Black Voters Matter (BVM) Capacity Building Institute. BVM is a leading organization in engaging community members and building local power in predominantly Black communities towards a multiracial democracy. BVM is a natural fit in our strategy as a national pooled fund committed to resourcing Black-led organizations building power and promoting voting and inclusion."

- Daniel Lau (he/him), Democracy Frontlines Fund Initiative Officer, The Libra Foundation



The Ford Foundation is proud to support Black Voters Matter (BVM) and it's work repairing the fabric of our civil society and restoring the legitimacy of our democracy. They do this by deepening civic engagement, advancing fairer rules for electoral participation, and partnering with hundreds of organizations to support local community infrastructure. In places where we see some of the deepest roots of inequality and the proliferation of anti-democratic practices, BVM is acting boldly and courageously with thousands of people across the south to inspire hope instead of fear, to stand in love instead of hate."

- Jason Garrett, Program Officer, Civic Engagement and Government

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

In 2022, Black Voters Matter remained a crucial piece in shifting the narrative, as we amplified the voices and concerns of not only our partners, but community members through power building, representation and unity. Together, these factors helped to ensure that the needs and concerns of Black voters are prioritized and addressed in the political process.

It's crucial that we keep fighting 365 days a year for issues that are important to Black communities, which include voting rights, environmental justice, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, reproductive justice and countless others. While continuing our support in 26 states, we provided \$9.7 million to over 600 community-based partners — a staggering \$4 million increase from the previous year! Our unyielding belief in the transformative effect of providing resources and services to those in need is a key component in building power in our communities.

Through strategic partnerships, grassroots organizing and innovative outreach methods, Black Voters Matter was able to reach millions of voters and make a difference in key elections. Black voters made their voices heard in several major senate races in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arizona, as well as crucial congressional districts across Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia.

In Akron, Ohio, an impressive 62% of voters voted "yes" on Issue 10, which will now ensure that community members have a say in policing practices. In Missouri, voters passed Amendment 3, which legalizes recreational marijuana and expunges the records of those who were previously charged with nonviolent marijuana offenses. In several states where Black turnout was strong, such as Michigan, crucial protections for abortion rights were upheld.

Looking towards the future and even gearing up for 2024, we remain fully committed to spreading love and building power towards a truly equitable democracy, a democracy that champions Black voters, Black people and Black communities as they flourish and thrive, a democracy that empowers us to elect representatives who prioritize our needs and issues. This fight is far from over, but our history shows us when we work together — we win. We will not falter. We will not step back. We Won't Black Down.

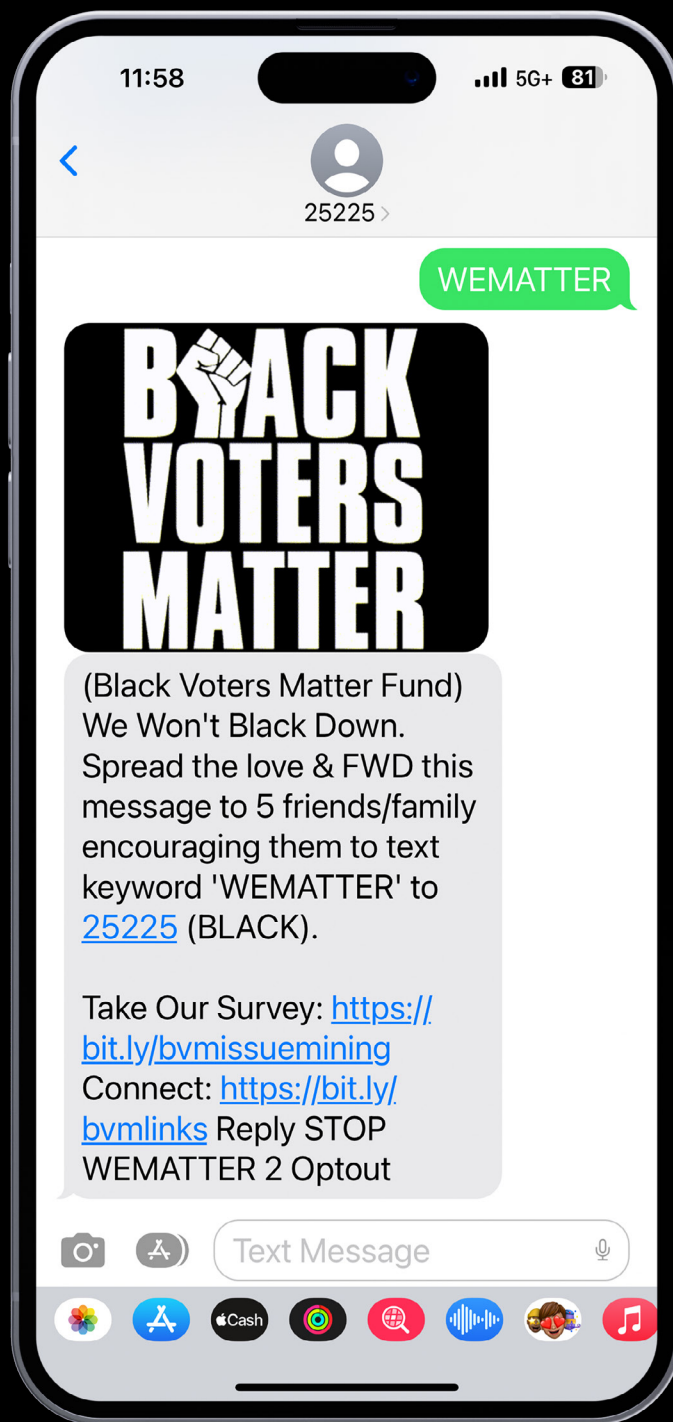
In solidarity,

Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown



JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

Text **"WEMATTER"** to **25225** to stay updated on all things **#BlackVotersMatter.**



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