# THE FIGHT CONTINUES

**March Wrap-Up Report** 



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This month, we commemorated the 59th anniversary of Bloody Sunday by amplifying the stories of the courageous activists who risked their lives for the right to vote.

We also honored National Reading Month and Women's History Month by shining a light on the Black women authors whose powerful narratives have transformed literature and inspired social progress. Plus, we're keeping the wheels turning on the Blackest Bus in America.

Explore these stories of resistance, resilience, and community empowerment. Take a look at our March Wrap-Up Report!

# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## ALABAMA

In Alabama, we commemorated the 59th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March, we honored the bravery and resilience of those who marched, as we continue to fight back and call for the immediate passage of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

From the Civil Rights Movement to today, Black communities have mobilized with power and purpose. It's not just about casting a vote; it's about changing the narrative to shape our future. It's About Us.

In addition to this weekends events with the Selma Jubilee and engaging panel discussions, we also completed some issuebased canvassing on important issues such as medicaid expansion, gun violence, storm recovery, housing, and high utility bills.

A huge shoutout to our local and national partners and our Take the Field students who joined us on the ground. We then continued rolling through the state on the Blackest Bus in America ahead of Super Tuesday!







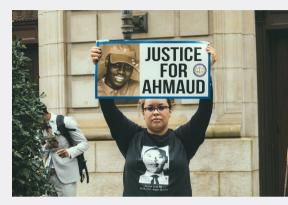
# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## **GEORGIA**

In Georgia, we joined the Transformative Justice Coalition, Georgia NAACP, ACLU of Georgia and others at a rally in Atlanta, demanding 100% justice for <u>#AhmaudArbery</u>.

We stood in solidarity with Arbery's family to call for the FULL accountability of the men convicted of his murder. Currently, Attorneys are asking a U.S. appeals court to overturn the hate crime convictions, we will NOT rest until there is FULL accountability for their actions.

The murder of Ahmaud Arbery had a profound impact on the world, shining a light on the persistent issues of racial injustice and police violence in America. The case serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for reforms to address systemic racism and ensure equal justice.







# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

On Super Tuesday in North Carolina, our "We Fight Back" tour rallied Black voters in Wilmington and Raleigh with community events, voter education, and free food. From block parties at polling places to campus visits and roadside encouragement, we ensured every voice was heard.

Thanks to partners and dedicated staff, we stress the importance of Black voter engagement beyond Election Day. Your participation is crucial for building power and advocating for social justice year-round. Thank you to all Black voters who showed up to make a difference.









## TEXAS

Also on Super Tuesday in Texas, our "We Fight Back" tour energized Black voters in San Augustine with a Party at the Poll featuring Pastor Amos Horton of Sabine Valley District and Reed Chapel Baptist Church. Watts and Watts restaurant provided delicious food.

In Lufkin, we joined Pastor Andre Branch of Our Fathers House of Faith to greet voters with free food, swag, and essential voting information.

# STOP THE TSU TAKEOVER

## TENNESSEE

Black Voters Matter joined TSU students, alumni, and community members together to demand accountability and transparency in the TSU \$2.1 Billion underfunding matter. Earlier in the month, students urged elected officials to VOTE NO on HB 1739. This bill would vacate the entire board of TSU, the bill eventually based and students called for TSU alumni to be appointed.

Black Voters Matter alongside our partners and coalition of student organizers at Tennessee State University are pleased that the Governor made the right decision in appointing TSU alumni to the board following the recent vote to vacate. We believe that representation matters, and the board should always reflect the needs of the campus community.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that TSU has significant financial obligations that must be addressed. TSU has been underfunded for more than 30 years and is still owed \$2.1 billion from the state. <u>Read our full statement</u>.

We call upon Governor Lee to bring all parties to the table and create a timeline for repayment that ensures the continued success and growth of TSU. Join us in taking action!



#### SIGN THE PETITION



#### JOIN OUR CALL CAMPAIGN



# VOLUNTEER CORNER

This month, we completed our first postcard campaign for 2023, which focused on the importance of African American Studies. Our volunteers helped to send over 2000 postcards to residents in Florida and Texas. Volunteers wrote messages about how African American Studies made an impact across the world and how we can fight back against restrictive laws that keep us from knowing the truth about our history. Below are a few of our volunteers' messages.

The education we have fought to gain access to is being limited here in Florida. In order to shape and create great minds we must include African American studies as it allows for individuals to think critically and evolve from a history we refuse to accept.

We cannot have a fair and functional democracy without dismantling the systems of oppression designed to silence Black people. Like the most recent attempts across the country to ban books and restrict education around African American Studies. We must resist by voting, speaking up, calling out racism, buying or borrowing Black history books & showing up at school board meetings!

If kids are only allowed to learn a sanitized version of the past, they will be robbed of knowledge. They will never know about the injustices that our people faced and how racism is ingrained in every aspect of our society. They will never learn how our people courageously responded to those injustices. Knowing our American history – all of it – is important. So speak up at school board meetings, talk to principals/teachers, and make sure Black history is not erased. For our kids.

Thank you to all our volunteers this month! Join us in April for multiple volunteer events as we celebrate Global Volunteer Month.

TAKE ACTION

# BVM IN THE MEDIA

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#### CHECKOUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS!

• <u>The Grio</u>

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- Prism Reports
- <u>Washington Post</u>
- The Atlanta Voice
- <u>NewsOne</u>

### GET INVOLVED TEXT "WEMATTER" TO 25225!

