

Democracy
Docket

2026

Impact report

How Democracy Docket became the leading news platform for voting rights and elections in the courts.



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| Introduction

Letter from Marc Elias

When I started Democracy Docket in 2020, I had a clear vision: build the leading digital news platform dedicated to voting rights and elections in the courts.

At the time people told me to stick to the law and let others worry about informing the public. I ignored them knowing that the best way for people to understand the attacks on democracy was from someone in the fight.

Six years later, my vision has become a reality that has surpassed even my wildest expectations. What began as an email list of 200 personal contacts has grown into a subscriber base of more than 460,000. A website with a handful of my writings has become a full-blown newsroom.

From the start, my goal was to make Democracy Docket the leading digital news platform dedicated to information, analysis, and opinion about voting rights and elections in the courts. I also wanted it to be unapologetically pro-democracy and fiercely independent.

At the start of 2024, Democracy Docket faced a critical moment. It had grown as large as it could with its limited resources. I had insisted from the beginning that Democracy Docket neither seek outside investment nor rely on platforms such as Substack — but that meant it simply could not grow without a reliable source of revenue.

Without knowing how it would turn out, in March 2024 Democracy Docket launched a premium membership program. For \$120 a year, members would gain access

to exclusive content and special events — and, more importantly, help Democracy Docket grow and scale.

It was an immediate success. And as legacy media sought to accommodate Trump and pull their punches, Democracy Docket's growth only accelerated.

Independent media like Democracy Docket isn't just an answer to this problem: it is the solution. Today, I am proud to say that we have built something that has exceeded even our most ambitious early goals.

What started as an email newsletter has grown into a dedicated team of 30. We have a newsroom with around-the-clock coverage, a growing video team, and a robust social media presence. As the state of our democracy grows dire, Democracy Docket is rising to the occasion and reporting on issues that legacy media refuses to touch.

As we approach the 2026 midterm elections — with voting rights under assault — the pressure on Democracy Docket to expand its reach and deepen its impact has never been greater. That is especially true in a media landscape where so many outlets still seek to offer equal weight to those protecting democracy and those who seek to undermine it.

In March, Democracy Docket launched a new VIP tier for those who can afford to

help take it to the next level. Sustaining the journalism that holds power accountable requires resources, and these supporters will form the essential backbone of the next phase of Democracy Docket's growth.

Through all of it, Democracy Docket's formula for success remains the same: providing you the truth, no matter how tough, no matter how difficult. Whether you find us online or in your inbox, Democracy Docket will be here to empower you with knowledge.

Six years in, Democracy Docket's success is a testament to your support. I am proud of the team we have built and deeply grateful to the dedicated readers who power our work.

Thank you.



Marc E. Elias
Marc Elias, Founder

Our mission

Through our independent, mission-driven journalism, Democracy Docket is committed to playing an active role in the fight to protect U.S. democracy at a time when it faces grave threats.

We offer up-to-the-minute, multi-platform news coverage on voting, elections and democracy in court — at a level of depth and detail that readers won't find anywhere else. And we do it from an unapologetically pro-democracy standpoint.



Zachary Roth
Zachary Roth, Managing Editor

| Our work

What makes our work so powerful?

Democracy Docket's news coverage fills a glaring gap in the market.

There's no shortage of media outlets closely covering the national politics horse-race — telling you who's up, who's down, and who's likely to win. But only Democracy Docket is obsessively tracking the urgent battles over voting rights — in the courts, in Congress, in the Trump administration, and in states across the country — that shape whether we have fair elections at all.

And only Democracy Docket is shining a light, every day, on the right's latest schemes to undermine democracy. That's our niche — and we go deeper than anyone on it.

Many of the stories we're proudest to report are ones that no one else would be willing to cover.

They might be about government court filings, state election board votes, or meetings of grassroots anti-voting groups — developments that may seem obscure but can have a major impact on voting access, or can reveal something important about efforts to restrict democracy.

We don't see attempts to restrict voting as one side of a legitimate debate, and we aren't afraid to call out attacks on democracy for what they are. And we'll never bow down to Donald Trump.

Democracy Docket coverage, at its best.

The Department of Justice's voter roll grab

In May 2025, Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ) launched an unprecedented effort to obtain full, unredacted voter rolls from all 50 states.

From the outset, we understood the campaign as a dangerous new step in the administration's multi-pronged bid to illegally assert federal control over the voting process.

That's why no one has covered DOJ's voter roll grab, which has included lawsuits targeting 30 states, more closely than Democracy Docket.

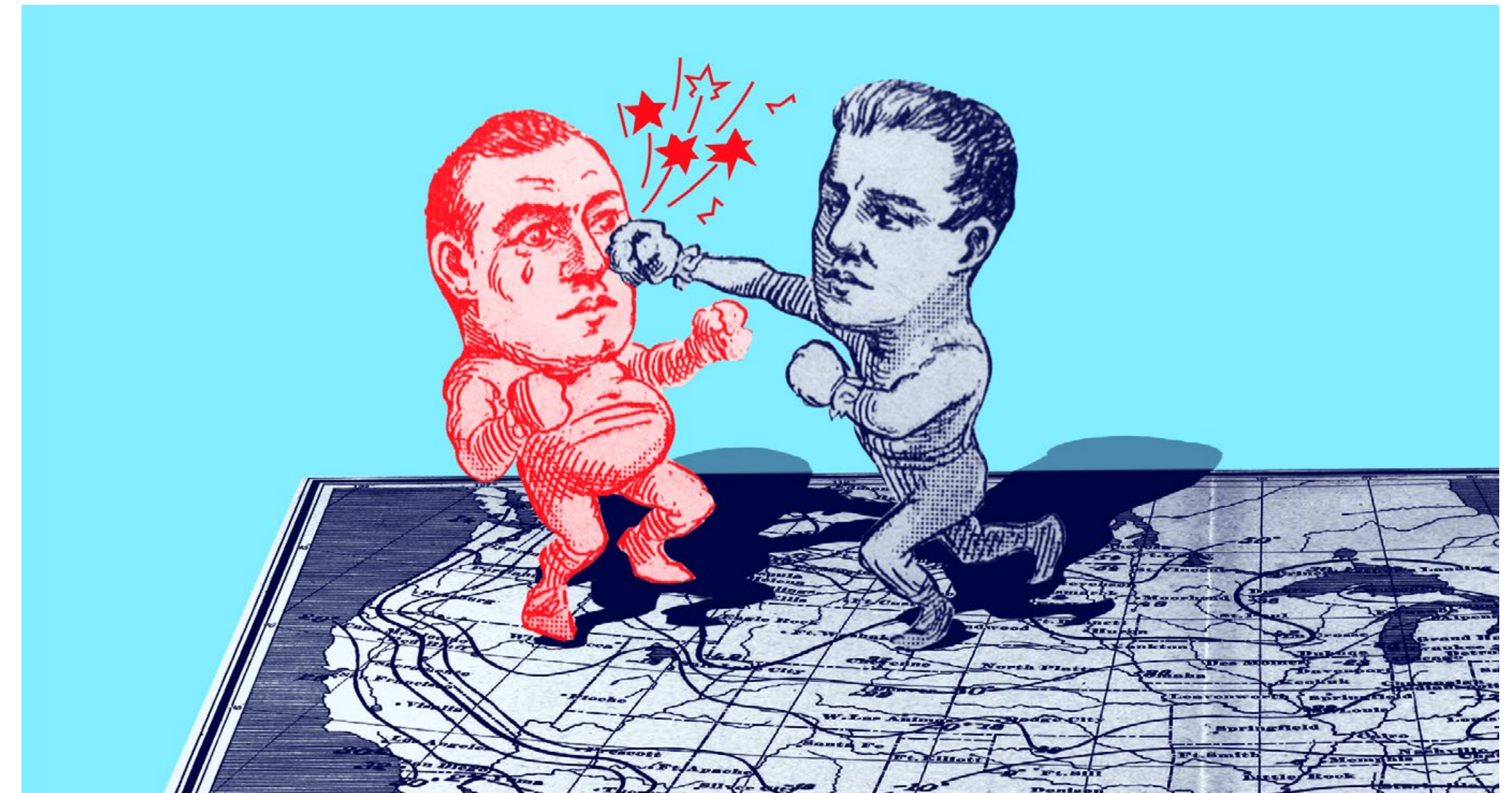
In well over 100 stories on the topic, we've explained which states have worked with the administration and which have resisted; we've tracked the numerous court setbacks DOJ has suffered (currently, it's lost all 8 cases in which there's been a ruling); and we've worked hard to stay on top of DOJ's frequently shifting rationales for why it wants this sensitive voter data in the first place.

We've also broken important news you won't find anywhere else. We were first to report that the department planned to demand voter roll data from all 50 states, as it has since done.

We exclusively revealed that several of the right-wing lawyers brought in to staff the initiative — including the acting chief of DOJ's voting section — have close ties to election deniers and conspiracy theorists, or worked to overturn Trump's 2020 election loss. And we've had fun highlighting the numerous embarrassing mistakes in DOJ's campaign, including letters sent to the wrong state officials, egregious typos in court documents, and filings submitted with draft comments still visible.

The Department of Justice has lost voter roll cases in these eight states:

Arizona	Michigan
California	Oregon
Maine	Rhode Island
Massachusetts	Wisconsin



Trump's gerrymander war

Since Trump launched his gerrymander war last summer, much of the media has covered it as little more than political hardball, in which both sides are jockeying for an edge in the midterms.

From the start, we've seen it differently: as an anti-democratic attempt by the president and the GOP to rig elections by diluting the power of Democratic, and often minority, voters — akin to their relentless efforts to suppress voting.

Because we understood how much this fight mattered for fair elections, we

committed serious resources to it.

We're especially proud to have sent redistricting reporter Jen Rice to a federal courtroom in El Paso, Texas, where she was the lone national reporter covering a legal effort to block Texas' gerrymandered map as racially discriminatory.

Jen's detailed nightly dispatches were required reading for journalists, advocates, politicians — and ordinary readers — throughout the weeks-long hearing.

Continued on the next page...



Beyond the Lone Star State, we covered every step of the process as Republicans rammed their gerrymanders through other statehouses, and as Democrats responded with their own redraws.

We led the pack in covering the slew of legal challenges that followed — leveraging the work of our Research team, which provides real-time tracking of every filing in key election cases. And our frequently updated graphic tracker has offered a simple way to follow the changes to maps across the country, and to see how the nationwide battle affects the state of play in the fight to control Congress.

We also provided extensive coverage of the Supreme Court’s disastrous ruling that gutted the Voting Rights Act — and spurred a stampede among Southern states to eviscerate Black representation in Congress by passing their own gerrymanders.

The SAVE America Act

When the Republican-controlled U.S. House passed the SAVE Act last year, two leading historians of American democracy told us that the measure — which would require documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote — was the worst attack on voting in our history.

That’s how our coverage has framed this legislation from the start. And as MAGA Republicans have tried everything to get an even more suppressive version, the SAVE America Act, through the Senate and onto Trump’s desk, we’ve gone deeper than any other news outlet on this clear and present threat to democracy. In more than 100 stories on the subject, we’ve provided the kind of up-to-the-minute, incremental coverage — delving into the details without ever losing sight of the enormous stakes — we pride ourselves on.

National reporter Jim Saksa drew on his Capitol Hill experience and sourcing to track every legislative twist and turn of the Senate debate. We called out the

blatant lies spouted by key Republican backers of the measure, like Ted Cruz. We explained just how SAVE could disenfranchise large numbers of eligible voters — presenting special hurdles for married women, disabled voters, and those in rural, underserved areas. And we kept a close eye on the anti-voting groups who pressured GOP lawmakers — often using false and misleading claims about voting — to go to the mat for the bill.

As we write, the threat from the SAVE America Act isn’t over. And we’ll continue to cover every detail of the story.

WRITER TESTIMONY

“I came to Democracy Docket from a traditional news outlet that sacrificed honesty in documenting the right’s assault on democracy for “both sides” reporting aimed at maintaining access.

I felt disillusioned.

Now I wake up every day uncertain what fresh hell this administration

might unleash upon the rule of law, but sure that I will be allowed to call it out for what it is. That feels good, even amid all the bad. And seeing our audience grow bolsters my faith that the American experiment has not yet run its course.”



Jim Saksa
Jim Saksa, Reporter

| Case study

MONTHS BEFORE

WEEKS BEFORE

DAY OF



CASE STUDY

Louisiana v. Callais

Learn how the various teams at Democracy Docket work together to deliver breaking news on major court cases, like Louisiana v. Callais.

Key

□ Research team □ News team

□ Social team □ Email team

By the numbers

CASE DATABASE

We track 1,000+ voting and election cases.

Our research team maintains the most expansive case database that documents democracy-related litigation over the last six years.

Three lawyers.
20 years combined experience.

The research team has three lawyers with a combined 20 years in law, policy and research. Their experience comes from the courtroom, political campaigns and the federal government.

50 states a day.
Hundreds of filings a week.

To stay up-to-date, the research team monitors federal and state court dockets in 50 states, plus D.C. They upload hundreds of pages of filings each week.

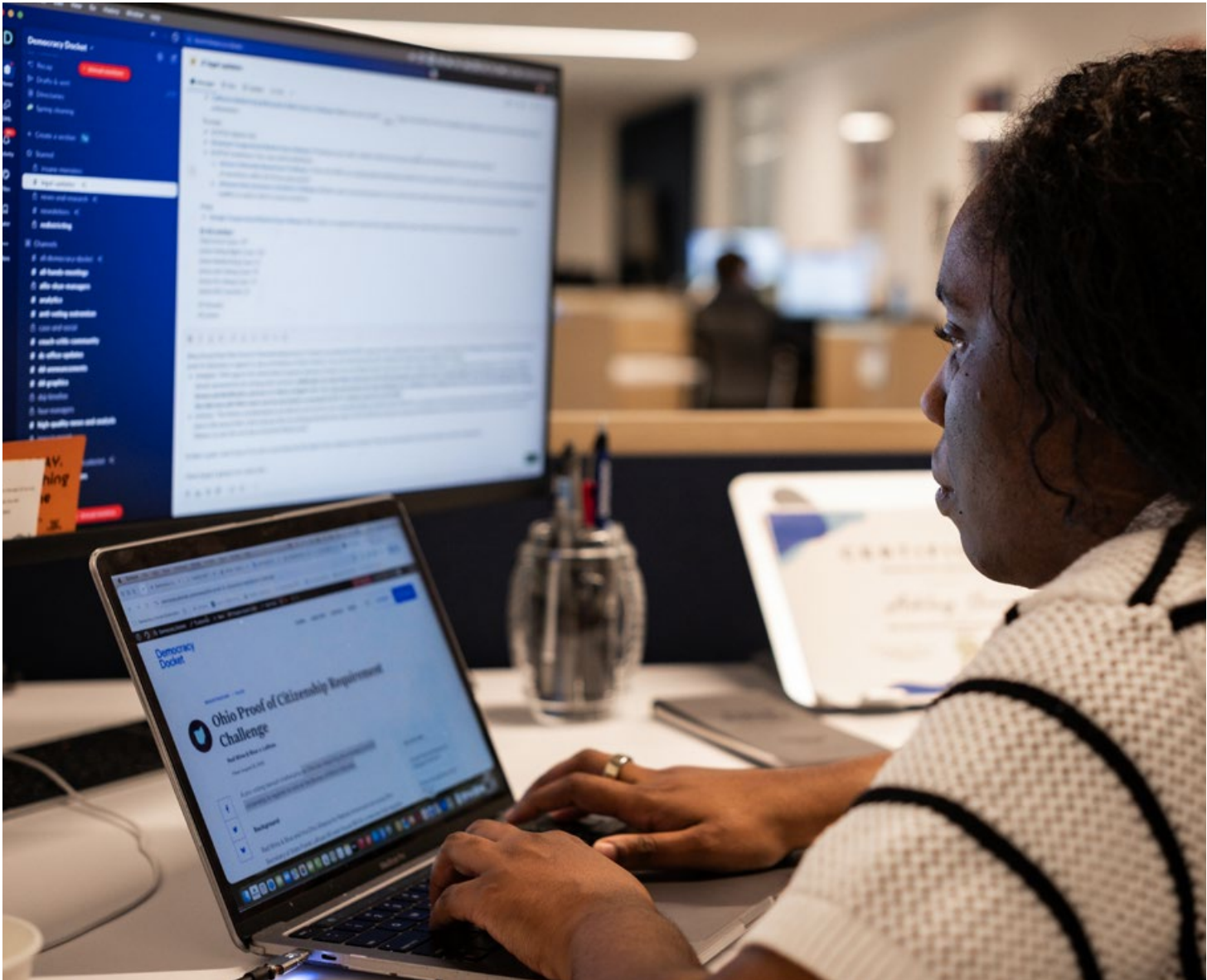
240 active cases.
1,000+ total.

Each status update for over 240 active cases is documented in our database in real-time to bring you the most accurate information — accessible to everyone and for free.

150+ voting rights cases.
90+ redistricting cases.

One researcher tracks over 150 voting rights cases, while another tracks over 90 cases concerning redistricting, election interference and Trump accountability.

Florida Appellate Case Information System			LOGIN / REGISTER	LANGUAGE	
Appendix-Reply	Appendix to Petitioner's Reply in Support of Emergency Petition for Constitutional Writ	Equal Ground Education Fund, Inc.			
Reply to Response	Reply in Support of Emergency Petition for Constitutional Writ	Equal Ground Education Fund, Inc.			
Amicus Curiae	The motion for leave to file brief as amici curiae filed by NAACP Florida State Conference, The Dream Defenders, and The Black Collective is hereby granted. The brief by the above referenced amici curiae was filed with this Court on June 8, 2026.				
Amicus Curiae Initial	Amicus Curiae Brief of Civil Rights Organizations in Support of Appellants	NAACP Florida State Conference			
Amicus Curiae	Motion for Leave to File Brief of Amici Curiae NAACP Florida State Conference, The Dream Defenders, and The Black Collective in Support of Petitioners	NAACP Florida State Conference			
Appendix-Response	Respondents' Appendix	Secretary, Florida Department of State			
Response	Respondents' Joint Response to Emergency Petition for Constitutional Writ	Secretary, Florida Department of State			
Response	The Florida House of Representatives' Response in Opposition to Emergency Petition for Constitutional Writ	The Florida House of Representatives			
Appearance	Notice of Appearance	Secretary, Florida Department of State			



Democracy Docket

CASES ANALYSIS OPINION NEWS

REDISTRICTING LITIGATION | DECIDED

Tennessee Congressional Redistricting Challenge (Hale)

Hale et al v. Lee et al

Filed: May 7, 2026 | Decided: June 9, 2026

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w

A pro-voting lawsuit challenging Tennessee's new gerrymandered map that dismantled the state's lone majority-Black district in Memphis.

Background

Tennessee voters and candidates running in congressional districts 5, 6, and 9 filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the state's new gerrymandered map that dismantled the state's only majority-Black district, Memphis. Plaintiffs assert that the new map, election calendar, and rules will "wreak chaos," cause voter confusion, and impede election officials from administering the midterm election in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments. Plaintiffs also argue the new map violates constitutional principles of the right to associate by breaking "already-formed associational bonds," including "political organizing, volunteering, speaking, campaigning, and donating in support of a political

RELATED LINKS

Alabama Public Service Commission Overhaul Challenge

Missouri Congressional Redistricting Referendum Certification Delay Challenge

Tennessee Congressional Redistricting Challenge (NAA II)

Tennessee Congressional Redistricting Challenge (Sherren)

We’re making a lasting impression...

We made democracy go viral

In the past year, 16 of our posts crossed one million impressions alone. Three posts crossed five million; two crossed 10.

Our single biggest post this year reached 39 million people on Facebook and Instagram. The reel showed Rep. Ted Lieu confronting then-Attorney General Pam Bondi for lying under oath about the Epstein files.

A new top-10 post emerged in April: A Facebook post showing Trump’s hypocritical rhetoric after the White House Correspondents’ Dinner assassination attempt crossed 1.2 million impressions.

17,000

posts — averaging 46 posts every day.

All social data is from within the past year.

2 million

followers across platforms

320,000+

link clicks directed followers to our reporting, analysis and resources.



Sen. Charles Perry, R-Texas



1.5 million

shares — one of the most powerful signs that content is resonating.

ON THE SCENE

Our followers heard from Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis on the steps of the Supreme Court during Louisiana v. Callais oral arguments.



CAUGHT RED-HANDED

Halfway through a ten day hearing on Texas redistricting, our own reporter Jen Rice was the only national news presence in the El Paso courtroom.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

We exposed racist comments by a Texas lawmaker. Our post went so viral that he opened the next session with an apology.

16 million

likes, shares, comments and clicks



...and bringing together a community of pro-democracy fighters.

OUR ALWAYS-FREE RESOURCES

We believe pro-democracy content is winning.

What began as an email list of 200 of Marc’s personal contacts has quickly grown into a nationwide movement of dedicated pro-democracy readers.

A massive reader base.
In the past year we’ve had 13 million page views with 4 million engaged minutes. That equates to over 7 years time!

13 million

Page views on the Democracy Docket website

4 million

Engaged minutes on the Democracy Docket website

Above average email engagement.
Our free newsletters get an average 52.5% open rate, compared to the publishing industry standard of 20.5%.

460,000+

newsletter subscribers

OPEN RATE

52.5%

Excellent
Benchmark: 20.5%

Source: Hubspot



Highly attended virtual events.
Our event leading up to the 2024 election featuring Brian Tyler Cohen and Rep. Jamie Raskin received nearly 10,000 registrants, bringing in 2,891 new email subscribers.

We are dedicated to the fight for free and fair elections and want every reader to be empowered to know their rights, which is why the majority of the content we produce is free for all.

Over the past six years, there’s been no shortage of great journalism. From the redistricting war of 2026, to the post-eelction contests in 2022, we’ve kept readers informed on the ways the right to vote is shaped by the courts.

Our opinion columns include pieces from Hillary Rodham Clinton, John Legend, Janai Nelson, legal experts and other pro-democracy experts in the fight.

3,659

News articles

618

Analysis deep dives

547

Opinion columns

MEMBERSHIP

We remain confident in reader-funded journalism.

We launched our premium membership in March of 2024 as a way to support our growing newsroom. Unsure of how the program would perform, we have been blown away by the tremendous support our readers have shown us —and just how zealous they also are for the fight for free and fair elections.

At the start, the membership only offered exclusive email newsletters from our founder, Marc. However, in the past year, we have dramatically invested in expanding the experience to include:



An exclusive members-only website



Audio playback of premium articles



A comment section on premium articles



Membership gifting opportunities

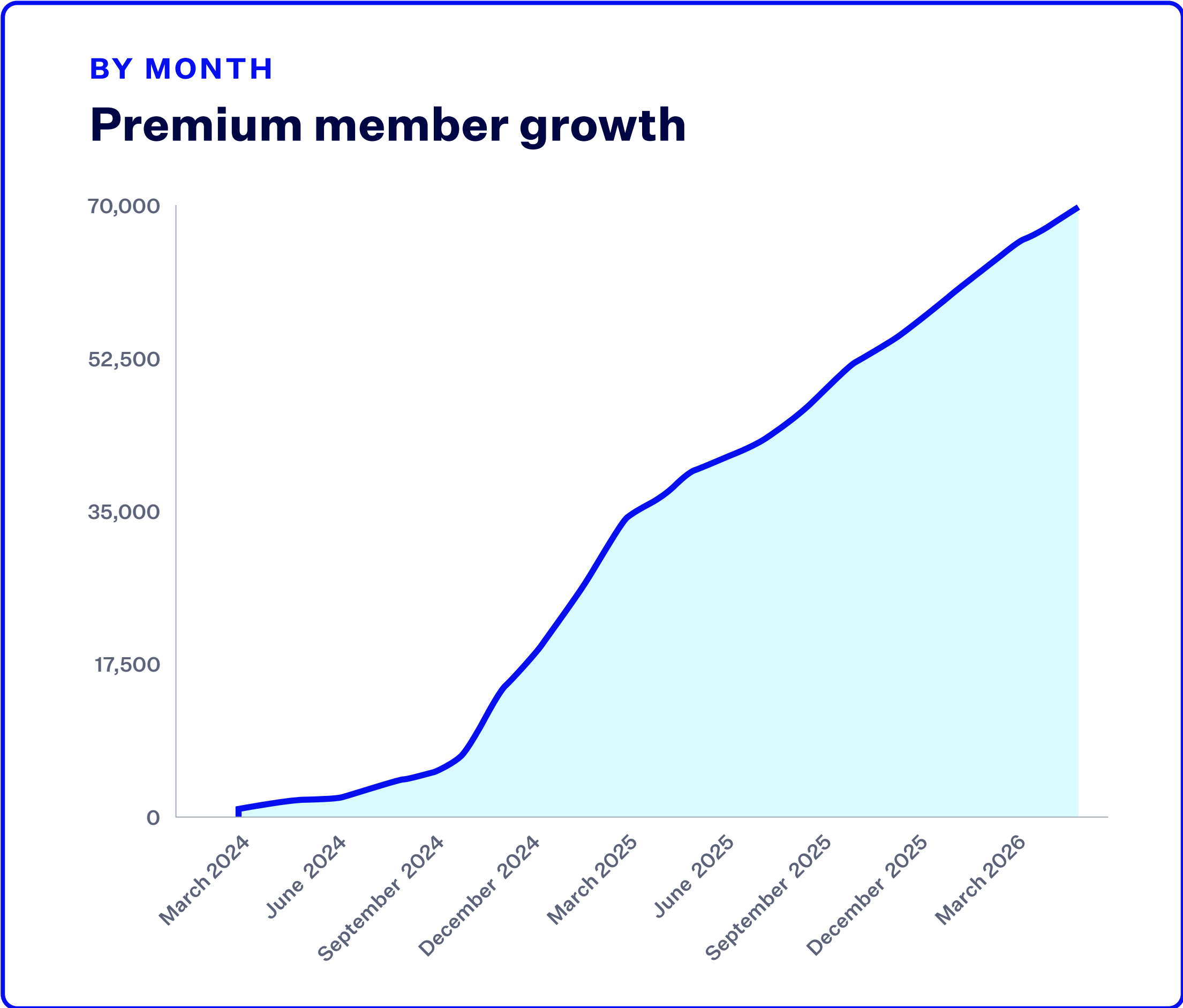
70,000+
readers have upgraded to a premium membership.

While we plan to continue to build on the premium member experience, we are encouraged by the fact that members primarily cite supporting our mission as a factor in their decision to upgrade.

Mission support was by far the most-cited factor among premium members, well ahead of the runners-up:

- **Support for Democracy Docket’s mission:** 2,502 (~91%)
- **Exclusive content from founder Marc Elias:** 1,383 (~50%)
- **Access to members-only section of the website:** 569 (~21%)

We are beyond grateful to these members as they are the reason we can speak the truth boldly and without fear of being censored or shut down.



Moving forward

Our plan.

1

Expand our newsroom

Our newsroom is the engine of everything we do. We're expanding fast — more reporters, more coverage — to report on what's coming as the midterms approach.

2

Grow our audience

We need more people paying attention to the threats to voting and elections in court. The bigger our audience the louder the pro-democracy movement grows.

3

Expose the threats

We'll keep digging into the stories others ignore and shining light on the truth, from anti-voting lawsuits to right-wing legal groups, exposing every effort to restrict the vote.

How you can join in.

A stronger newsroom means stronger accountability. There are big and small ways to be a part of Democracy Docket's expansion efforts.

Share our work with others

In our fight to protect democracy, we are committed to keeping the majority of our content free to all. If something speaks to you, share it with friends and family. Forward an email, send an article, repost our content on social media and get others to sign up for our newsletters.

Gift a membership

Give a gift that protects democracy and share the wealth of unapologetically pro-democracy journalism.

Engage with us on social media

Help us tell the algorithm that pro-democracy content is valuable. If you see a post from us, like it, comment on it or share it with others. All of this goes a long way to push our news out even further.

Consider donating

Thanks to reader support, we can continue to cover attacks on voting rights without flinching. If you're able, consider giving a **one-time donation** to support our mission.

**Democracy
Docket**