

POLICY PLAY

SECOND CHANCES & VOTING RIGHTS

MAY 2026

OUR ADVOCACY FORMULA IS SIMPLE

AWARENESS + ACTION = IMPACT



In April, SJC joined organizations across the country to celebrate **Second Chance Month**. And in May, the U.S. Supreme Court decided an important voting rights case that triggered **congressional redistricting** in several states across the country.

Below are a brief **policy snapshot** of Second Chance issues in criminal justice reform, highlights of how the NBA community has been involved, and a **policy explainer** on the history of the **Voting Rights Act**.

SINCE 2021, THE COALITION HAS:

SUPPORTED **7**
SECOND CHANCE MEASURES
IMPACTING OVER
7 MILLION
PEOPLE

HOSTED **6**
EXPUNGEMENT CLINICS
SERVING OVER
3,000
PEOPLE

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Hear from leaders in our community on how they drive change on second chances.



ERIKA SWILLEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

FAST FACTS

1 in 3

Americans has a criminal record, limiting opportunity

\$87B

Cost to the U.S. economy due to criminal record barriers

10x

More likely to be unhoused due to past justice system contact

1 in 2

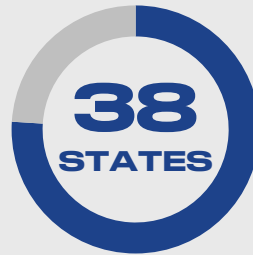
Children with a parent who has been justice-impacted

KEY ISSUES

More states are adopting smart Second Chance policies—helping to strengthen the economy and promote safety. Here is how states are making progress in each area.

RECORD RELIEF

Allows people to clear or seal eligible criminal records so they can move forward



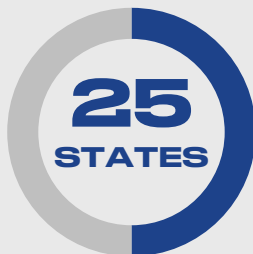
38 STATES + D.C.

Offer felony/misdemeanor relief, incl. 13 states + D.C. with automated relief systems

EXAMPLES: OK, MI, PA, UT

FINES & FEES REFORM

Limits or eliminates excessive fines and fees that trap people in cycles of debt



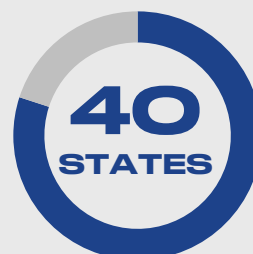
25 STATES + D.C.

Curbed or eliminated the use of driver's license suspensions for unpaid fines and fees

EXAMPLES: CA, CO, OH, OR

SECOND CHANCE HIRING

Reduces employment barriers and helps people access good jobs



40 STATES + D.C.

Reformed licensing laws to make it easier for justice-impacted people to access

EXAMPLES: IN, MA, OH, TX

COALITION ON KEY ISSUES

RECORD RELIEF

Supported passage of NY's Clean Slate law and implementation efforts in MI and UT

FINES & FEES REFORM

Supported expungement fee waiver bill in UT, expanding access for hundreds of low-income residents

SECOND CHANCE HIRING

Supported GA's occupational licensing bill, increasing job opportunities for 4M individuals

TEAMS IN ACTION



DETROIT PISTONS SOCIAL IMPACT SUMMIT

Apr. 11. The Detroit Pistons and SJC hosted the **2026 Social Impact Summit**, designed to promote second chances and civic engagement, and offer a range of community resources, including expungement services. The Summit was held at the Henry Ford Detroit Pistons Performance Center. Featured speakers included **Kevin Grigg** (Chief Communications Officer, Detroit Pistons) and **Dwane Casey** (Senior Advisor & Fmr. Head Coach, Detroit Pistons).

DALLAS MAVERICKS SECOND CHANCE SUMMIT

Apr. 25. The Dallas Mavericks and SJC hosted a Second Chance Summit focused on reentry, opportunity, and second chances. The event included a community resource fair offering employment, housing, and legal support, followed by a taping of "The Huddle." The conversation—"Rebounding into Promise: Pathways to Successful Reentry and Second Chances"—included a fireside chat with Mavs President **Ethan Casson** and SJC ED **James Cadogan**, and a panel discussion with local community leaders moderated by NBC 5's **Candace Sweat**.



SECOND CHANCE BUSINESS COALITION SECOND CHANCE FORUM

Apr. 9. SJC participated in the **Second Chance Forum** in the "Beyond the Record: Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders" panel, which highlighted the **JUMP Leadership Accelerator**. The panel, moderated by **Mannone Butler** (Head of Programs & Partnerships, SJC), featured **Arvind Gopalratnam** (SVP of Corporate Social Responsibility, Milwaukee Bucks) and **Jayden Hernandez** (Boston Celtics JUMP Leader).



Second Chance Forum at Georgetown University
on **April 9, 2026**



NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION (NYEC) ANNUAL FORUM

Mar. 30. SJC participated in the **NYEC Annual Forum** in a panel on "Reimagining Workforce Pathways for Justice-Impacted Young People." Moderated by NYEC ED **Mimi Haley**, the discussion focused on the Coalition x JUMP's program: the JUMP Leadership Accelerator. Featured panelists included **Ken Oliver** (CEO, JUMP), **Jayden Hernandez** (Boston Celtics JUMP Leader), and **Khalil Hayes** (Los Angeles Clippers JUMP Leader).



VOTING RIGHTS ACT EXPLAINER



BACKGROUND

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the [Voting Rights Act](#) (VRA) into law: a landmark measure designed to prevent discriminatory voting practices and ensure equal access to the ballot for all Americans.

Over the past 50 years, Congress has amended the VRA multiple times with significant bipartisan support and presidential approvals from both Democratic and Republican administrations—reaffirming the nation’s commitment to protecting voting rights.

VRA KEY PROVISIONS

BANS DISCRIMINATION (SECTION 2)

Prohibits voting discrimination based on race, color, or language.

PRECLEARANCE REQUIREMENT (SECTIONS 4 & 5)

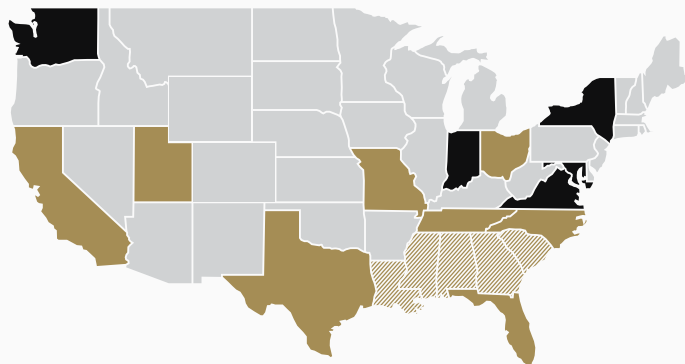
Covered jurisdictions with a history of discrimination must get federal approval (preclearance) before changing any voting laws, rules, or procedures.

PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION

Empowers individuals to sue if their voting rights are violated.

REDISTRICTING ACTIVITY IN THE PAST YEAR

Supreme Court decisions have also continued to shape the reach and impact of the VRA, including this month in [Louisiana v. Callais](#). A wave of states has begun redistricting as a result.



REDISTRICTING STATUS

- Complete
- ▨ Underway
- Considered, Not Passed

Source. [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

Primary Source. [The Voting Rights Act: Historical Development And Policy Background](#)

TIMELINE

- 1965 – ENACTED**
Section 5 (preclearance) and Section 2 (ban on discrimination) established.
- 1975 – AMENDED**
Added preclearance protections for language minority groups.
- 1982 – CITY OF MOBILE V. BOLDEN**
Supreme Court ruled that Section 2 required proof of discriminatory intent. In response, Congress amended the VRA to clarify that protected groups must have the same opportunity to participate in elections.
- 1986 – THORNBURG V. GINGLES**
Supreme Court established review standards for Section 2 “vote dilution” claims in voting maps.
- 2006 – REAUTHORIZED**
Congress extended preclearance formula and other protections.
- 2013 – SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER**
Supreme Court struck down coverage formula in Section 4. Preclearance under Section 5 effectively suspended.
- 2026 – LOUISIANA V. CALLAIS**
Supreme Court further limited Section 2, making it harder to challenge voting maps and laws for vote dilution.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The VRA helps ensure fair representation and ballot access.
- Since *Shelby* and *Callais*, states have passed hundreds of [new voting restrictions](#) and [drawn maps](#) that impact an estimated [100M Americans](#).
- Congress has power to strengthen VRA by passing bipartisan [John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#).

GET INVOLVED

LEARN MORE

Clean Slate Laws Boost the Economy and Public Safety

[BROOKINGS INSTITUTION](#)

Road to Reform: State Approaches to Addressing Debt-Based Driver's License Suspensions

[NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES](#)

The Voting Rights Act, Explained

[BRENNAN CENTER](#)

What *Louisiana v. Callais* Means for the Voting Rights Act

[HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL](#)

TAKE ACTION

- ✓ **Host a Second Chance Summit with SJC.**
- ✓ **Share information on automated record sealing, including the Federal Clean Slate Act and Fresh Start Act.**
- ✓ **Share information on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.**

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