



ONE VOICE MISSISSIPPI

**ROOTED
& RISING**

Toward a Mississippi Where We ALL Thrive

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ROOTED AND RISING

Toward a Mississippi Where We ALL Thrive

Some voices in Mississippi have never needed permission to be heard. They have always had the platforms, the access, the representation. This report is not about them. It is about everyone else, the families in rural counties whose power bills drain budgets with no recourse, the voters removed from rolls without notice, the students in underfunded Delta schools whose experiences have gone undocumented, the returning citizens who served their time and still cannot vote. It is about what happens when those voices are not just amplified, but centered.

That is One Voice's work. That has always been One Voice's work.

What It Means to Be Rooted

To be rooted is to know where you come from and why it matters. One Voice was founded on the conviction that Mississippi's historically silenced communities — Black Mississippians, rural families, low-income workers, returning citizens, immigrant neighbors — deserve full representation and influence in every space where decisions are made about their lives. Nearly two decades later, that conviction has not shifted. It has deepened. Our roots are our values: self-determination, equity, democratic participation, and the irreplaceable wisdom of people with lived experience. Everything we do grows from there.

What It Means to Be Rising

To be rising is to refuse to be fixed in place by the weight of what has been. In 2025, communities that had been told their voices did not matter organized proxy campaigns, packed town halls, doubled survey targets, drafted testimony, and demanded to be included in decisions about their children's schools, their electricity rates, their voting rights, and their state budget. Rising is not a metaphor. It is a verb, and across Mississippi it was happening everywhere we looked.

INTRODUCTION

The Road Ahead

We enter 2026 clear-eyed. The threats to civil rights, voting access, public education, and economic equity are not diminishing, they are intensifying. The 2026 midterm elections will be among the most consequential in Mississippi's recent history. Federal funding streams that communities depend on are being cut. The state income tax phase-out will begin to reshape what Mississippi can and cannot afford to invest in its people.

One Voice will meet all of it, with data, with organizing, with coalition power, and with the unwavering belief that this state's best chapter has not yet been written.



*One Village.
One Vision.
One Voice.*

THIS IS THE MOMENT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Family, Friends, and Partners,

There is a particular kind of resilience that grows in soil other people have written off; Mississippi knows it and our communities know it. After a year like 2025, I find myself more convinced than ever that the work of One Voice, this long, patient, persistent work of making sure every voice is heard, is not just important, it is essential. It is the only antidote to a political environment that keeps betting our communities will stay quiet.

They are not staying quiet. They never were.

What Rooted Means in Practice

I think about what it means to be rooted often. For One Voice, it means that no matter what is happening in Washington or in Jackson, we are oriented by the same questions we have always asked: whose voice is missing from this room, and what would it take to put them at the table? In 2025, that question led us to cooperative boardrooms in rural Mississippi, to legislative hearings, to focus groups across the state, and to the Delta, where young people finally got to say out loud what their schools actually feel like from the inside.

Being rooted also means we do not abandon our work when it gets hard. The suffrage restoration applications we submitted on behalf of people impacted by the justice system all died in committee. The income tax elimination we opposed was signed into law. The proxies we collected for the cooperative election were partially discarded. 2025 was not a year of clean victories. But we were rooted enough to stay, and to come back stronger.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What Rising Looks Like from Here

Rising is not the same as winning. It is something deeper, it is the shift that happens inside a community when people realize their voice counts, and they start using it differently. I saw it this year in the young people who reshaped a room full of adults at The Village Approach Convening just by speaking honestly about their schools. I saw it in the cooperative members who cast proxy votes for the first time and understood, perhaps for the first time, that the cooperative was supposed to belong to them. I saw it in every suffrage applicant who trusted us to help restore their voice.

To our staff: you show up every single day with a love for this community that cannot be manufactured or required. It must be chosen. And you choose it, over and over. Thank you.

To our board: you have been a steady hand through transitions, uncertainty, and growth. Your commitment to this organization's vision — even in the most turbulent moments — is what makes everything else possible.

To our partners, volunteers, and funders: this work belongs to all of us. None of it happens without you.

And to the communities of Mississippi — the families, the students, the people impacted by the justice system, the cooperative members, the voters, the parents, the people who keep showing up even when the system keeps telling them not to: you are why. You have always been why.

With love deep gratitude and unwavering resolve,

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND POLICY

At One Voice, our Economic Justice and Policy work is grounded in a simple conviction: Mississippi's working families deserve a government that invests in them. In 2025, our team fought on every front, in the statehouse, in the community, and in the press, to protect the resources families rely on, push back against policies that would deepen inequality, and build the analytical and coalition capacity to win lasting change.

IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



1,803+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH TRAININGS, WEBINARS & EVENTS



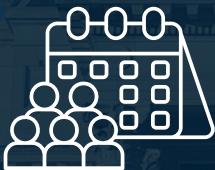
15

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & COALITIONS FORMALLY ENGAGED



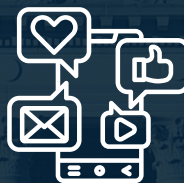
82

MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES COVERED BY STATEWIDE ADVOCACY



503

TOTAL ATTENDEES ACROSS MAJOR EVENTS



9

TOTAL ATTENDEES ACROSS MAJOR EVENTS



3

EVENTS HOSTED OR CO-HOSTED

“Our research determined that once fully implemented, income tax elimination could cost Mississippi \$2.5 billion dollars annually – threatening the very services our communities depend on.”

In 2025, the Mississippi legislature took up one of the most consequential fiscal decisions in recent state history: the elimination of the state income tax. One Voice's Economic Justice team led a rigorous campaign to ensure that policymakers and the public understood the stakes.

Our analysis highlighted that Mississippi is the nation's second most federally dependent state. As federal funding dollars declined, any reduction in state revenue would leave school districts – especially those in rural and under-resourced communities – dangerously exposed. We provided testimony to the Mississippi Black Legislative Caucus (MBLC), presenting data-driven policy recommendations that placed the concerns of working Mississippians at the center of the budget debate.

While the legislation to phase out the state income tax was ultimately signed into law, One Voice's advocacy helped elevate the long-term consequences in the public conversation, earned six press features, and produced a suite of budget explainers and reports that continue to shape how legislators and community members understand the tradeoffs ahead.



2025 POLICY WINS

Despite a challenging legislative environment, 2025 delivered meaningful gains for Mississippi families:



GROCERY TAX REDUCED

One Voice made reducing Mississippi's heavy grocery tax a top legislative priority. The state took action – a meaningful step toward making food more affordable for low-income families, even as we continue to push for full stabilization of state revenue.



PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ENACTED

The legislature passed the Paid Family Medical Leave Act, granting state employees six weeks of paid family leave – a long-overdue protection for workers and families.



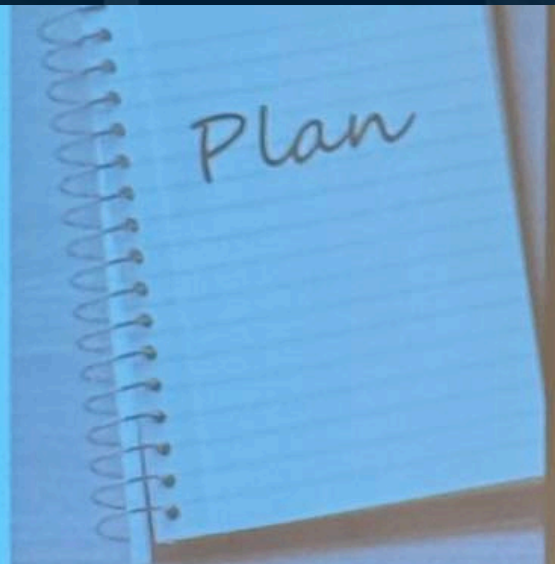
SCHOOL VOUCHERS DEFEATED

One Voice worked in deep partnership with coalition allies to successfully defeat multiple legislative efforts to implement universal school vouchers, protecting public education funding for the 90% of Mississippi students who attend public schools.

“SHOCK AND AWE”

1. Set boundaries
2. Use experts
3. Feeling overwhelmed is the point
4. Wait 48 hours before reacting to new policies
5. Build community

Source: Jennifer Walter



ECONOMIC JUSTICE & POLICY

Budget & Tax Policy Advocacy

Through our partnership with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' State Priorities Partnership (SPP) – a coalition of over 40 nonprofit research and policy organizations – One Voice continued to develop rigorous economic analyses and policy tools that inform budget decisions across the state.

Key products and actions from 2025 included:

- Income Tax Elimination analysis and testimony presented to the Mississippi Black Legislative Caucus
- Grocery Tax Reform Toolkit developed and distributed to community partners
- Child Tax Credit Implementation Toolkit to support working families with children
- SNAP and TANF advocacy toolkits to protect cash support and nutrition programs
- State of Working Mississippi Report – presented to 415 Mississippi Black Leadership Summit (MBLS) participants over two days
- Legislative update emails reaching approximately 1,300 readers statewide
- Voices in Action Webinar series with 88 registrants



"SHOCK AND AWE"

1 Set boundaries

Plan

Advancing Healthcare Access

In partnership with CARE for Mississippi – a coalition of 66 organizations – One Voice continued to push for Medicaid expansion and authored reports documenting the devastating healthcare coverage gap in our state. Our 2025 priorities included:

- Medicaid Expansion Report: making the case for closing the coverage gap
- Medicaid Coverage Gap in Mississippi Report: quantifying who is left behind
- Continued advocacy for expanded postpartum healthcare coverage, building on the 2024 victory that extended coverage from 60 days to a full year

Fiscal Equity in Education

Our Economic Justice team played a central role in the fight to preserve public school funding in Mississippi. We worked in coalition with public education advocates, parent organizations, rural superintendents, and community leaders to defeat universal voucher proposals that would have drained public education budgets and deepened racial and economic segregation.

- Analysis of Mississippi's use of final ESSER funds, identifying gaps as the federal funding cliff approached
- Reports and toolkits opposing private school vouchers: Privatization: A Dangerous Path to Inequality in Education; The Case Against Universal Vouchers in Mississippi; and Protecting Public Schools Toolkit
- Coalition building through the statewide education funding coalition, with targeted stakeholder mobilization across all 82 counties
- Action Alert Tele-Town Hall with over 250 registrants mobilized to contact legislators

Building Community Leadership

One Voice's policy work is amplified by its investment in the next generation of community leaders. The 2024-2025 class of the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute (MBLI) included a sitting mayor, a state representative, and a newly appointed city planning director — ensuring that the leaders shaping Mississippi's future are connected to the communities they serve.

The 2024-2025 MBLI class included: the sitting Mayor of Sunflower, MS, Desiree Norwood; State Representative Daryl Porter Jr.; and the newly appointed Planning Director of Jackson, Von Anderson.



Desiree Norwood



Daryl Porter Jr.



Von Anderson

Impact Story: Who Protects the Village, We Protect the Village.

The Challenge: As private school voucher proposals advanced in the Mississippi legislature, community members lacked accessible, accurate information about what these bills would actually mean for their schools, their children, and their tax dollars.

Our Response: One Voice launched a comprehensive public education campaign, producing toolkits, hosting events, and partnering with coalition allies to make the stakes clear. Our Policy Director presented The Case Against Vouchers in Mississippi directly to the MS Black Legislative Caucus, and the organization mobilized over 150 advocates, parents, students, and leaders for a strategy gathering to defend public schools.

The Result: Voucher legislation was defeated at the Capitol. In Mississippi, 90% of students attend public schools, and their futures remain protected.



Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, the One Voice Economic Justice and Policy program will focus on shaping a state budget that reflects the needs of all Mississippians. As the state income tax phase-out begins to reshape our fiscal landscape, our team will continue to document the direct impact on public services and working families. Grounded in our mission to bridge the gap between policymakers and historically disadvantaged communities, we will continue to build the coalition power necessary to hold the line for equity and ensure that essential community investments are protected.

EDUCATION

One Voice's education work in 2025 was defined by a single conviction: the future of public education belongs to the communities it serves. From the halls of the state legislature to the living rooms and community centers of the Mississippi Delta, our teams listened, organized, and fought, ensuring that students, families, and educators were not just subjects of education policy, but its authors.

This section covers two distinct but deeply connected bodies of work: the statewide coalition-building effort that became the Mississippi Alliance for Public Education, and the “Our Voices, Our Schools” youth storytelling initiative, a grassroots effort to amplify the voices of young people in the Delta.

PART I: MISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

In a year of escalating threats to public education — from state voucher proposals to shifting federal priorities — One Voice helped build something lasting: a statewide coalition rooted in the lived experiences of the people most impacted, The Mississippi Alliance for Public Education.



IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



1,299

MISSISSIPPIANS
ENGAGED



25

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
IN COALITION



81

COUNTIES REPRESENTED



1,034+

SURVEY RESPONSES



227

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS EDUCATED
AS ADVOCATES



10

COMMUNITY EVENTS
& TRAININGS

Surpassing Every Goal

The 2025 engagement plan set ambitious targets. The community exceeded them.

1,034+

SURVEY RESPONSES

The original survey target was 500 respondents by August 15. By July 11 – five weeks early – the coalition had already surpassed 1,000. Final count: 1,034. This response reflects deep community investment in the future of public education.

82

COUNTIES REACHED

Focus groups, town halls, surveys, and convening attendance represented 81 of Mississippi's 82 counties, a near-complete statewide picture of community education priorities.

EDUCATION

Building the Coalition from the Ground Up

The Mississippi Alliance for Public Education was built intentionally and inclusively. Over the course of 2025, One Voice and its partners created multiple, overlapping pathways for community members to engage, ensuring no single voice dominated and that those most impacted had the most influence.

The coalition structure included:

- 6 organizations on the Core Planning Team
- 3 additional organizations supporting town halls and focus groups
- 9 additional organizations on the Convening Planning Committee
- 7 organizations and individuals on the Transition Committee
- Focus groups held across 4 geographic regions of the state
- 2 public town halls with combined attendance of 76 participants

The Village Approach Convening

The capstone of the year's engagement work was The Village Approach Convening — a statewide gathering of approximately 150 advocates, educators, families, and students. The convening was covered by both the Jackson Advocate and the Mississippi Link, bringing broader public attention to the coalition's work.

A defining moment came from the youth panelists. Their participation was so powerful that convening attendees reorganized and reprioritized their collective strategies in real time, centering student needs and voices as the foundation of the coalition's future work. This was not a planned outcome. It was the community responding to its own children.



Approximately 50% of town hall participants expressed a desire to stay connected and continue involvement. More than 1 in 4 survey respondents indicated they wanted to engage further, creating a pipeline of sustained community investment in public education.

Impact Story: When the Village Speaks, the Priorities Shift

The Challenge: Across 2025, as federal and state education policies shifted rapidly, parents, educators, and advocates across Mississippi reported feeling confused, unheard, and disconnected from the decisions shaping their children's schools.

Our Response: The Core Planning Team of the Mississippi Alliance for Public Education designed a statewide engagement process that intentionally created multiple, consistent opportunities for community voice. Focus groups, town halls, surveys, and the convening were all designed to uplift and honor the expertise and voices of those closest to the issue.

The Result: Participants repeatedly described feeling valued and listened to. New voices joined the Transition Committee and the Convening Planning Committee. Youth panelists reshaped a room full of adults and a coalition was born.

Looking Ahead: 2026

In 2026, the Mississippi Alliance for Public Education will focus on establishing an affirmative vision for public education in Mississippi, and building the strategies to bring that vision to life. The groundwork laid in 2025 through the relationships, the data, the trust, has positioned the coalition to move from listening to leading.

EDUCATION

PART II: OUR VOICES, OUR SCHOOLS — YOUTH STORYTELLING INITIATIVE

In six counties across the Mississippi Delta, One Voice partnered with the GAP Leadership Program and Action Community for Education Reform (ACER) to launch something the Delta's young people had long deserved: a safe, trusted space to tell their own stories about school.

Our Voices, Our Schools equipped youth with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to connect their lived experiences to the larger systems shaping their education — and to speak up about what their schools need.

IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



133

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
REACHED



6

MISSISSIPPI DELTA
COUNTIES SERVED



3

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



6

COMMUNITY BASED
WORKSHOPS
DELIVERED



133

YOUTH TRAINED AS
ADVOCATES

Counties Served

Sunflower

Bolivar

Holmes

Leflore

Yazoo

Washington

Why Community-Based Delivery Matters

All six workshops were intentionally held in trusted community spaces — not schools. This decision was both strategic and principled. In rural Delta communities, transportation barriers and school-based access issues can prevent students from participating. More importantly, holding sessions outside of institutional settings created psychological safety: students could speak honestly about their school experiences without fear of institutional consequences.

By meeting young people where they are, in their communities, on their terms, the program created conditions for authentic storytelling that school-based programs often cannot.

EDUCATION

What Youth Learned – and What They Taught Us

Participants in Our Voices, Our Schools gained:

- A deeper understanding of school funding inequities and how they affect their daily experiences
- The ability to connect personal lived experience to systemic policy issues
- Confidence and skills to articulate their stories in public and advocacy settings
- Increased belief in their own capacity to influence education conversations and community change
- Civic engagement skills and advocacy readiness for future participation

Voices from the Delta

“Sharing my story helped me realize that what I experience at school isn't just my problem – it's something leaders need to hear. And I was happy One Voice gave me an opportunity to share in front of the world.”

– La'David Hall, Greenville, MS

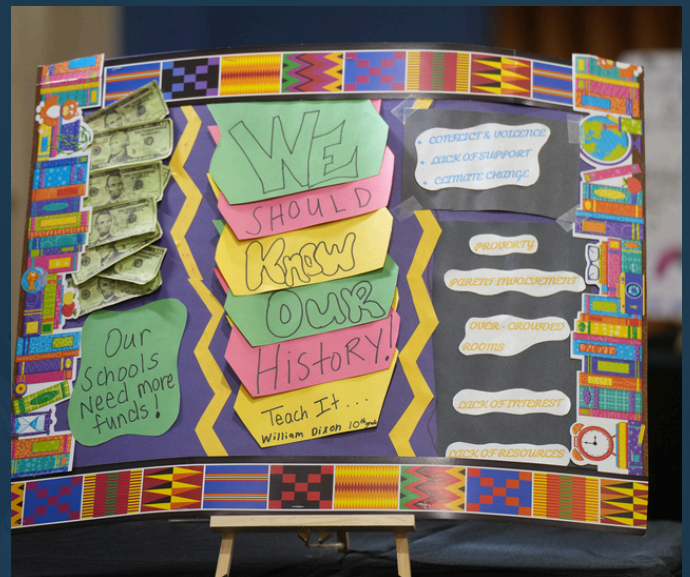
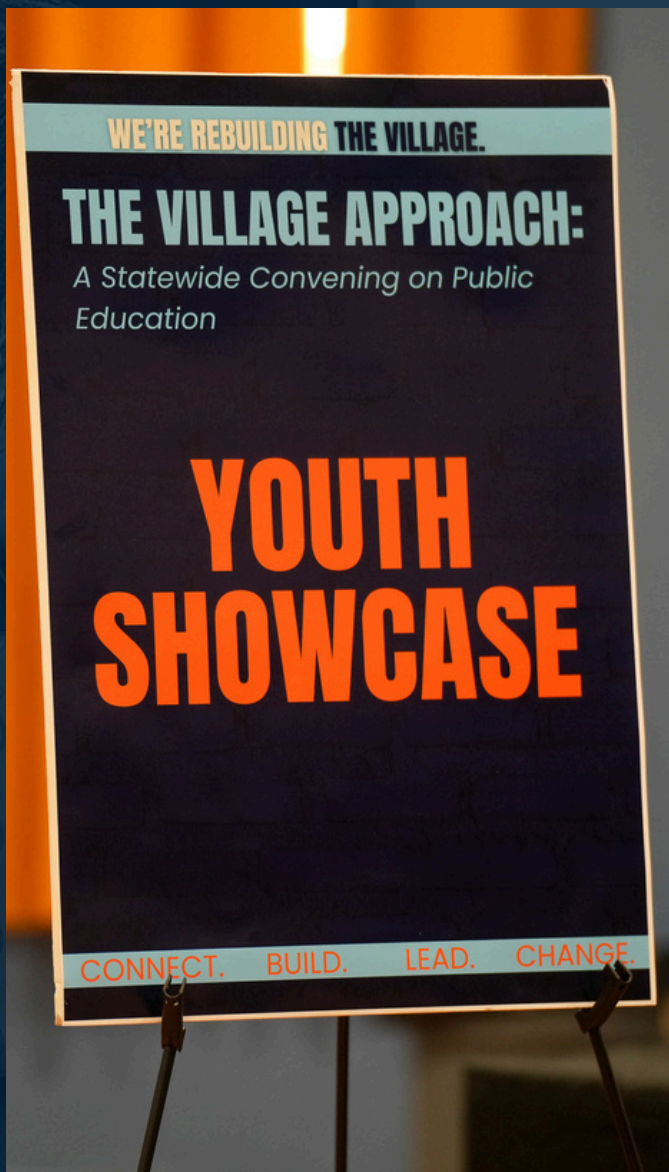
“This program made me feel heard and confident enough to speak up about what our schools really need. I am no longer afraid to speak up and advocate for me and my peers.”

– Jadarius Cartrell Jenkins, Hollandale, MS

EDUCATION

Looking Ahead

The Our Voices, Our Schools initiative demonstrates the value of youth-led storytelling as both an engagement strategy and a foundation for long-term education advocacy in the Mississippi Delta. As the Mississippi Alliance for Public Education moves into 2026 and builds its affirmative vision for public education, the voices captured through this initiative will help ensure that vision is shaped by, and for, the youth must serve.



OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

One Voice's outreach work has never been confined to a single issue or a single season. In 2025, our team operated as a year-round civic infrastructure — meeting Mississippians where they were, connecting them to the resources and rights that belong to them, and building the collective power needed to demand better from every system that shapes their lives.

From Election Day protection to tornado disaster relief; from immigrant rights consultations to rural electric cooperative organizing; from expungement clinics to redistricting listening sessions, One Voice showed up. What follows is the story of that work, by the numbers and in full.

IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



1,774

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS DIRECTLY
REACHED



445

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED
STATEWIDE



20

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
& COALITIONS



35

COMMUNITY EVENTS
& TRAININGS HOSTED



30+

COALITION &
STRATEGY MEETINGS



25

ENERGY DEMOCRACY
ADVOCATES TRAINED
(ECLI)

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

The Election Protection Hotline served as a frontline defense for voter access across Mississippi, providing real-time guidance during early voting and on Election Day. Staffed by trained volunteers and legal partners, the hotline ensured that no voter had to face confusion, intimidation, or misinformation alone.



PROTECT YOUR VOTE

One Voice hosts an Election Protection Program to prevent obstacles during polling to secure voting access for eligible Mississippians.

CALL 1-888-601-VOTE (8683)

Call the number above if you have voting questions or concerns.

#MYLIFEMYVOTE 



OCT 6

GENERAL ELECTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE

If you have Election or Voting Questions, call us at **1-888-601-VOTE (8683)**





~350

CALLS RECEIVED

Voters from 44 identifiable Mississippi counties contacted the hotline. The highest call volume came from Hinds County, with additional concentrated calls from Horn Lake in DeSoto County. Issues addressed included voter registration problems, polling location confusion, voter ID requirements, absentee ballot concerns, and reports of intimidation.



189

VOTERS ASSISTED WITH PRECINCT & LOCATION ISSUES

Voters from 44 identifiable Mississippi counties contacted the hotline. The highest call volume came from Hinds County, with additional concentrated calls from Horn Lake in DeSoto County. Issues addressed included voter registration problems, polling location confusion, voter ID requirements, absentee ballot concerns, and reports of intimidation.

Many issues were resolved in real time, ensuring voters were able to cast ballots without unnecessary barriers.

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

COALITION LEADERSHIP & LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

Behind every successful voter protection effort is a coalition working in coordination. In 2025, One Voice participated in more than 30 coalition and strategy meetings focused on voting rights legislation, election administration, and voter access expansion, aligning strategy, reviewing proposed legislation, coordinating rapid-response systems, and countering misinformation across the state.



30+

COALITION AND
STRATEGY MEETINGS



1,774

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TOUCHED THROUGH
COALITION WORK



445

VOLUNTEERS ACTIVATED
ACROSS MULTIPLE
REGIONS

Redistricting Education & Representation Advocacy

Following federal rulings requiring new legislative districts in DeSoto County, Forrest County, Chickasaw County, and Monroe County, One Voice partnered with civil rights advocates to host listening sessions in Olive Branch, Okolona, and Hattiesburg. These sessions educated residents on the redistricting process, Black Voting Age Population implications, and how district lines shape political power and resource distribution.

Through coordinated advocacy, legal engagement, and community mobilization, One Voice's efforts contributed to a historic outcome:

All court-ordered special majority seats within the State of Mississippi were secured – strengthening representation and protecting the voting strength of historically marginalized communities.

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ERASED TO THE POLLS: VOTER RE-ENGAGEMENT

Voter roll purges disproportionately impact marginalized communities — and in Mississippi, thousands of eligible voters find themselves removed or placed on inactive status without realizing it. Through the "Erased to the Polls" initiative, One Voice made it a priority to find those voters, inform them of their status, and help them get back on the rolls.

37

COUNTY PURGE LISTS OBTAINED

450


VOTER
REGISTRATION
FORMS COLLECTED

One Voice conducted more than 20 voter registration drives statewide, collecting 450 completed voter registration forms. On National Voter Registration Day alone, nine coordinated drives were held across Hinds, Lowndes, Humphreys, Sharkey, Coahoma, DeSoto, and Pike counties.

20+

VOTER
REGISTRATION
DRIVES STATEWIDE

Drives combined registration, voter reactivation, voter education, and election protection resources, ensuring that every interaction moved participants closer to full civic participation, not just a single transaction.



ERASED AT THE POLLS

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: HISPANIC & IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

One Voice believes that every person in Mississippi deserves to feel safe, informed, and included in civic life, regardless of immigration status. Through the "Know Your Rights" initiative, One Voice created trusted spaces for Hispanic and immigrant community members to access critical legal resources and understand their constitutional protections.

5

**GUATEMALAN
CONSULATE
CONSULTATIONS
HOSTED**

One Voice hosted five Guatemalan Consulate consultations to assist Latino community members with visas, consular documentation, and passports — tools critical for legal stability, employment, and civic inclusion. By making these services accessible, One Voice strengthened immigrant community trust and expanded pathways toward civic participation.

ENERGY DEMOCRACY: TAKING ON THE COOPERATIVES

Electric cooperatives are supposed to be member-owned and community-centered. For too many rural Mississippians, they are anything but. In 2025, One Voice organized member-owners of Twin County Electric Power Association to reclaim their voice in cooperative governance, educating communities on board accountability, rate structures, and the power of proxy voting.



2,000+

**COALITION AND
STRATEGY MEETINGS**



3,500+

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TOUCHED THROUGH
COALITION WORK**



25

**ENERGY DEMOCRACY
LEADERS TRAINED (ECLI)**

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Despite the extraordinary grassroots momentum and collecting more than 2,000 proxy votes over 600 proxies were ultimately discarded, and the campaign did not secure a board victory.

But the significance of what was built cannot be measured only in wins and losses. The effort marked a significant shift in member-owner awareness and participation, demonstrating that rural communities are prepared to demand accountability and systemic change.

Thousands of member-owners understood their governance power, engaged in collective action, and publicly challenged opaque board practices. One Voice will continue organizing, strengthening proxy education efforts, and preparing for the next election cycle. The fight for transparency, fiscal responsibility, and economic justice within rural electric cooperatives continues, with stronger networks, deeper engagement, and increased community resolve heading into the next challenge.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & RESTORATIVE RIGHTS

Mississippi's suffrage restoration process requires individual legislative approval — rather than automatic restoration upon sentence completion — creating systemic barriers that keep returning citizens locked out of civic life long after they have served their time. One Voice continued to fight that system in 2025 through direct action, advocacy, and on-the-ground legal support.

45
SUFFRAGE
RESTORATION
APPLICATIONS
SUBMITTED

One Voice organized a Direct Action at the Capitol, enabling returning citizens to speak directly with elected officials about restoring their voting rights. Despite the effort, all 45 applications died in the House or Senate due to legislative inaction — a stark reminder of why systemic reform remains essential.

200+
RESIDENTS
ASSISTED AT
EXPUNGEMENT
CLINICS

One Voice hosted expungement clinics in Hinds County (two clinics), Yazoo County, Rolling Fork, and Greenwood. Expungements remove barriers to employment, housing, education, and financial stability — enabling individuals to fully reintegrate into society and participate in civic life.

One Voice remains committed to reforming Mississippi's inequitable suffrage restoration process and will continue fighting for automatic and fair rights restoration for all returning citizens.

DISASTER RELIEF, WATER JUSTICE & RAPID RESPONSE

When disaster strikes, One Voice responds. In March 2025, tornadoes tore through Mississippi communities while Jackson's ongoing water crisis continued to displace and endanger families. One Voice mobilized rapidly – coordinating relief efforts in partnership with the Mississippi NAACP, the American Red Cross, and the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition.

30

**DISPLACED
FAMILIES HOUSED**

One Voice secured temporary lodging and essential necessities for 30 displaced families across Walthall, Smith, Covington, Leflore, and Grenada counties following the March 2025 tornadoes.

In response to failures linked to JXN Water, One Voice distributed hot meals, bottled water, and cleaning supplies while advocating for families living in apartment complexes deemed unlivable. The organization worked with housing management teams to help residents secure alternative living arrangements.

Our Outreach and Support:

- **Walthall County** – tornado response, emergency supplies
- **Smith County** – temporary lodging coordination
- **Covington County** – essential necessities distribution
- **Leflore County** – rapid response coordination
- **Grenada County** – family displacement support
- **Jackson (Hinds County)** – JXN Water crisis response, meals, supplies, and housing advocacy

OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

One Voice: Always Present, Always Accountable

From the ballot box to the utility bill, from the courtroom to the community center, One Voice's outreach work in 2025 was defined by presence and persistence. No single community was too rural. No issue was too complex. No family was left to navigate disaster, disenfranchisement, or discrimination alone.

By integrating democracy protection with economic justice, disaster response, immigrant rights, and restorative justice, One Voice reinforced its role as a trusted, community-centered leader committed to safeguarding democracy and strengthening the resilience of Mississippi families — one relationship, one registration, one right restored at a time.



THE MARSHALL RESILIENCE HUB

BUILDING MISSISSIPPI'S FIRST COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUB

For nearly two decades, One Voice has responded to crises, tornadoes, water failures, pandemics, displacement, by showing up with whatever we had: relationships, volunteers, partner networks, and a deep conviction that no community should have to navigate disaster alone. Every time, we asked ourselves: what would it look like if we didn't just respond, but were ready? The Marshall Project is our answer.

The Marshall Elementary Resiliency Hub is a shift of power directly to Jackson's neighborhoods – ensuring residents have the resources to be self-determining and resilient in the face of frequent disruptions.

Rooted in Crisis, Built for the Long Term

One Voice was born in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In those early days, local NAACP branches on the Gulf Coast reported being excluded from official emergency services and cut off from critical information. Black churches stepped into the gap, opening their doors, feeding families, providing shelter, while the systems that were supposed to protect communities failed them.

THE MARSHALL RESILIENCE HUB

One Voice was built to document those failures and fight to change them. Over the years, that commitment evolved into a full disaster response infrastructure: emergency supply distribution, utility assistance, shelter coordination, and — as a founding member of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Coalition (MDRC) — a 24-hour rapid response team and a dedicated long-term recovery team that has been deployed in every major Mississippi crisis since.

But every deployment revealed the same gap; emergency budgets were drained by temporary hotel stays, supplies had nowhere to be stored, families had nowhere stable to recover and the organizations doing the work were always starting from scratch.

The Marshall Resilience Hub ends that cycle. It takes nearly two decades of emergency response experience and builds it into a permanent structure — one that belongs to the community.

Designed to Serve in Every Season

Steady State

Daily Community Center

Education, health resources, job training, arts, and gathering — serving Jackson residents every day of the year.

Disaster Response

Emergency Coordination & Shelter

Rapid transition to emergency shelter for up to 60 families (120 individuals), with stored supplies ready to deploy.

Recovery

Long-Term Rebuilding Support

Long-term case management, business recovery, workforce re-entry, and community support to help families fully rebuild.

FIVE PILLARS OF THE HUB

01 Emergency & Temporary Shelter

60

FAMILIES HOUSED
DURING CRISES

The facility will provide temporary housing for up to 60 families – 120 individuals – displaced by storms, house fires, or other individual disasters. A dedicated shelter space will also serve troubled youth, ensuring the Hub is a sanctuary for the community's most vulnerable members regardless of the nature of the crisis.

02 Comprehensive Healthcare

In partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, the Hub will host a volunteer-driven, community-based free clinic designed to meet the healthcare needs that Jackson's uninsured and underinsured residents often go without. Services will include:

- Preventative screenings for heart health, nutrition, HIV, and various cancers
- Dental screenings and vision services
- Mental health services, including counseling and meditation sessions
- A sliding fee scale to ensure services are accessible regardless of income or insurance status

Healthcare in a resilience hub is not a bonus amenity. It is an acknowledgment that a community cannot recover from crisis – or prevent the next one – without access to consistent, dignified care.

03 Workforce & Economic Development

The Hub will house workforce development programs with a deliberate focus on the economy of the future. Green jobs — solar installation, urban farming, sustainable construction — will be a centerpiece of the training curriculum, connecting Jackson residents to growing sectors while advancing One Voice's long-standing commitment to environmental and economic justice.

The Hub will also provide dedicated office space for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits — ensuring that the economic development function serves not just job seekers, but community builders.

04 Resource Distribution & Emergency Storage

One of the most persistent gaps in Mississippi's disaster response infrastructure is the absence of pre-positioned supplies. When emergencies arrive, response organizations scramble to source water, generators, food, and equipment — costing critical time and money.

A dedicated section of the Marshall Hub will store emergency supplies — water, generators, filtration equipment, dry food, and other essentials — ready to deploy at a moment's notice. This is the infrastructure that turns a response organization into a readiness organization.

05 Sustainable Infrastructure & Public Space

The Marshall Resilience Hub is also a place-making investment. The campus will include ADA-accessible walking trails, community gardens, solar infrastructure, and green gathering spaces designed for artistic events, fellowship, and community life. This is not incidental to the Hub's mission — it is central to it. Resilient communities are not just communities that survive crisis. They are communities that thrive between crises.

The Hub will serve as a year-round cultural center where Jackson residents can learn, create, gather, and rest — with a particular emphasis on providing safe, creative space for young people.

THE MARSHALL RESILIENCE HUB

Built Through Radical Collaboration

One Voice did not design the Marshall Resilience Hub alone — and we will not build it alone. The Hub is a testament to what becomes possible when organizations commit to genuine partnership rather than parallel work. Our current partners include:

Operation Good

Community resource distribution and emergency coordination

Eversol

Sustainable energy and solar infrastructure development

Mississippi Move

Community mobility, transportation, and access initiatives

Minority Contractors Association of MS

Physical redevelopment creating economic opportunity for local builders

Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health

Community-based free clinic and comprehensive preventative health services

Jackson Public School District

Community-centered partnership for surplus building redevelopment

4Ever Caring

LGBTQ+ community-centered organization for gender justice and equality



THE MARSHALL RESILIENCE HUB

Why This Matters — Right Now

The Marshall Resilience Hub is One Voice's most ambitious investment in community resilience to date. It is also, in many ways, the fullest expression of our founding mission: that policy and infrastructure are only effective when they are built by and for the communities they serve. Every design decision, every partnership, every program offered at the Hub will reflect the voices of Jackson residents, because that is the only way to build something that will actually hold.

The Marshall Resilience Hub is actively seeking partners, funders, volunteers, and community members who want to be part of building Mississippi's model for community resilience. To learn more or get involved, visit onevoicems.org/the-marshall-project



CONCLUSION

STILL GROWING

ON THE EVE OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

You have just read the story of one year. But every number in this report, every voter registered, every young person who found their voice, every coalition built, every policy fought, is a single thread in something much longer. One Voice has been weaving that fabric for nearly two decades. And we are not finished.

In 2027, we will mark twenty years of doing this work. Twenty years of believing, against considerable evidence to the contrary at times, that Mississippi's historically silenced communities deserve full representation and influence in every space where power is exercised. Twenty years of building the infrastructure, the relationships, the data, the coalitions, the leaders that makes that belief more than a wish.

This is not a conclusion but a look forward at what we are building, why it matters, and what we need from everyone who believes Mississippi can be the place where every Mississippian thrives.



CONCLUSION

2025 BY THE NUMBERS — AND WHAT THEY ADD UP TO

Every data point below is more than a metric. It is a person whose voice was heard, a right restored, a barrier removed, a community strengthened.



1,774

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED THROUGH OUTREACH



1,803+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH POLICY & ECONOMIC JUSTICE



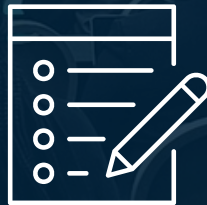
1,299

MISSISSIPPIANS ENGAGED THROUGH EDUCATION COALITION



450

NEW VOTERS REGISTERED



200+

RESIDENTS ASSISTED AT EXPUNGEMENT CLINICS



133

DELTA YOUTH WHO TOLD THEIR STORIES



81

MS COUNTIES REACHED BY EDUCATION COALITION



30

DISPLACED FAMILIES HOUSED AFTER TORNADOES



3,500+

COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ENGAGED ON ENERGY DEMOCRACY

CONCLUSION

What 2026 Is For

Everything One Voice does in 2026 will be oriented around a single animating question: what does it take to ensure that every Mississippian, regardless of zip code, income, race, record, or immigration status, has a genuine voice in the decisions that shape their life?

In practice, that means:

- Protecting the vote in the 2026 midterm elections — the most consequential Mississippi elections in a generation — through election protection, voter education, redistricting vigilance, and coalition coordination
- Holding the line on public education funding as the fight against vouchers returns and federal education dollars become uncertain
- Tracking and documenting the real-world impact of the income tax phase-out on the communities who can least afford the loss of state services it will require
- Continuing the fight for automatic suffrage restoration, because no Mississippian who has served their time should have to petition their legislature for the right to vote
- Expanding the Mississippi Alliance for Public Education from listening to leading — from building the coalition to advancing the vision
- Growing the next generation of community leaders through the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute, the Electric Cooperative Leadership Institute, and every program that invests in people, not just policy

2026 is not a bridge year. It is a building year — and what we build now will determine what is possible in our 20th year and beyond.

CONCLUSION

Toward 2027: A 20th Anniversary Vision

When One Voice was founded in 2007, Mississippi ranked last in nearly every measure of civic participation, economic opportunity, and political representation for its Black and low-income communities. The organization was built on the audacious premise that this did not have to be permanent, that if communities had information, organization, and genuine power, this state could move.

It has moved. Not as far or as fast as justice requires. But it has moved. Voting rights have been defended. Legislative maps have been redrawn. Postpartum healthcare coverage was extended. School vouchers have been defeated, twice. Leaders have been developed. Coalitions have been built. Young people in the Delta who were never asked what they thought about their own schools now have a record of their testimony, and the adults in those rooms rearranged their priorities because of it.

None of that happened by accident. It happened because of the sustained, unwavering, relationship-driven work that One Voice has committed itself to for nearly twenty years.

2027

One Voice's 20th Anniversary

In 2027, we will gather the communities, partners, advocates, and leaders who have made this work possible – to celebrate how far Mississippi's voices have carried, and to recommit to how much further they must reach.

CONCLUSION

The 20th anniversary will not be a gala for the organization. It will be a convening for the movement — a chance to bring together advocates, organizers, families, and leaders to take an honest stock of where we are, name what the next twenty years must accomplish, and build the relationships and strategies to get there.

We want every community that has been part of this journey in the room. Every returning citizen who walked to the Capitol. Every youth storyteller from the Delta. Every cooperative member who cast a proxy vote. Every parent who testified against vouchers. Every voter who called the hotline and heard a human voice on the other end. Every leader who came through MBLI. This anniversary belongs to all of them.

Be Part of What Comes Next

One Voice's work is only possible because of the people who believe Mississippi is worth fighting for. If this report has moved you — if you saw your community in these pages, or you saw the community you want Mississippi to become — here is how you can be part of it:

- **Stay informed** — sign up for One Voice's legislative updates and civic education resources at onevoicems.org
- **Volunteer** — join our election protection team, voter registration drives, or community outreach efforts
- **Partner** — if your organization shares our commitment to civic equity, let's build together
- **Invest** — support the infrastructure that makes this work possible, from legal defense to leadership development to community organizing
- **Show up** — attend the 2027 20th Anniversary Convening and add your voice to the next chapter of this story

Every voice One Voice has ever helped make heard was already there. We just helped clear the path. In Mississippi, there are thousands more waiting. Let's keep clearing.

One
Voice

MISSISSIPPI