



**PRESS RELEASE
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FLORIDA AFL-CIO OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

In Response to SCOTUS Decision on Shelby County v. Holder

Today's decision by the United States Supreme Court to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is a major blow to democracy in America and an affront to the thousands of Americans who were beaten and jailed during the civil rights movement. Racial discrimination that kept Americans from the ballot box was an insidious tool used to keep millions of our citizens from realizing the American Dream. The Voting Rights Act made the ballot box available and provided for the enforcement of our most cherished right, the right to vote.

The Voting Rights Act did not end discrimination; it gave those victimized recourse and pathway to ensure their rights were protected...now a major provision has been all but eliminated. We know that racial and ethnic discrimination at the ballot box is alive and well in Florida and the Supreme Court's decision today has, for now, eliminated one avenue available for those who want to fight that discrimination. The Florida AFL-CIO and the hundreds of thousands of union members we represent will not waiver in our commitment to the fights for voting and civil rights and will continue to press Congress and the Florida Legislature to protect those rights and hold them accountable when they refuse.

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