



**NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference
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**Contact: Joan Duvall-Flynn
President, NAACP PA
duvallflynn@yahoo.com
484-636-9308**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glen Mills, PA:

Based on federal hearings held in 2005 and 2006 in the House and Senate wherein it was found that tactics, including at-large elections, annexations, last minute poll place changes and redistricting had a discriminatory impact on voters, especially racial and ethnic minority American voters; the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference has consistently held the opinion that the Congressional map in place in PA since 2011 constituted voter suppression.

The Wednesday, Feb. 7, PA Supreme Court ruling that the 2011 congressional redistricting plan violated the *Free and Equal Elections Clause* of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and the subsequent Court map designed to create contiguous, compact and of equal population, with municipalities and counties split only when necessary to balance population, lends credence to that concern.

It is of imminent importance in our democracy that the power of the vote is not diluted. Hence, resultant to the rendering by the court of this new map, NAACP Pennsylvania has submitted it to the legal office of the National Association for review and to be vetted through the requirements of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* in its current iteration. Further response is dependent on the reactions of the NAACP legal office.

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The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination.