



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Justice Research Center Congratulates Karl-Anthony Towns on Winning NBA Social Justice Champion Award

KAT Wins Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Trophy in Recognition of Restore the Vote Advocacy



Karl-Anthony Towns and members of the Timberwolves organization join MNJRC and Restore the Vote partners at All Square in 2023 to discuss efforts to restore voting rights in Minnesota (left). Social Justice Champion graphic courtesy of the NBA.

MINNEAPOLIS – Today, the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) congratulated Timberwolves star Karl-Anthony Towns on being named the [2023-2024 NBA Social Justice Champion](#). Karl-Anthony Towns won the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Trophy in recognition of his efforts to Restore the Vote in Minnesota.

“Minnesota is stronger because Karl-Anthony Towns is using his platform to restore voting rights and give people hope,” said **Justin Terrell, Executive Director of the Minnesota Justice Research Center**. “We are grateful for Karl-Anthony Towns’ partnership in the Restore the Vote

movement. Restoring voting rights will be especially meaningful for Black and Indigenous Minnesotans who've been disproportionately disenfranchised from participating in our democracy. The MNJRC looks forward to continuing to partner with Karl-Anthony Towns and the Timberwolves as we register and mobilize thousands of new voters here in Minnesota. Together, we can continue to strengthen our communities and our democracy.”

[MNJRC](#) is a member of the [Restore the Vote coalition](#), which organized for decades to secure Minnesota's historic voting rights expansion. In March 2023, Governor Walz signed the Restore the Vote law ([HF 28/SF 26](#)), which restores voting rights to an estimated 55,000 residents – the biggest expansion of voting rights since the voting age was lowered to 18. Today, all Minnesotans who are not incarcerated for a felony conviction can exercise their right to vote.

Read MNJRC's summary on restoring voting rights [here](#) and learn more about MNJRC's “From the Block to the Ballot” research on best practices on mobilizing formerly disenfranchised Minnesota voters [here](#).

About the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC)

The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota's criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development. The MNJRC works with people with a wide range of knowledge and experience in the criminal legal system, including scholars, practitioners, students, survivors, and those who have served time in prison. For more information, go to www.mnjrc.org.

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