

NAACP®

~~PROJECT~~ 2025

OUR

Our 2025 Talking Points and Policy Priorities

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RESOURCES

Landing Page: www.naACP.org/project2025

MAIN MESSAGE

Project 2025 is a manifesto that seeks to undermine our progress, pervert democracy, and take us back to a time when we did not have a vote or a voice.

The extremist Project 2025 agenda would slash civil liberties, restrict access to healthcare, worsen environmental injustice, harm families with low incomes, and much more.

We rebuke these attacks on our country and its citizens. Therefore, we put forward Our 2025, a collection of policies that benefit Black America and the entire nation. To achieve Our 2025, NAACP is recruiting 300,000 volunteers to mobilize Black voters this November to ensure our voices are heard at the ballot box.

PROJECT 2025

- Project 2025 wants to strip us of our overtime pay, dismantle the Department of Education, and ban any policy seeking to establish equity while giving police officers full immunity for the crimes they commit against our community.
- Two major areas where Project 2025 is especially heinous for Black people are Healthcare and Education.
- Healthcare -- Black Americans should never have to worry about their ability to access quality healthcare, or whether or not we can afford the prescriptions we and our loved ones need to survive.
 - The Affordable Care Act has allowed many of us to access health insurance that the system seeks to shut us out of, has made sure our loved ones can get the comprehensive care they need without worrying about whether or not coverage would be capped in a time of crisis, and so much more.

- We aren't where we should be. Despite recent progress in lowering drug costs and expanding access, many of us are still struggling. Our 2025 proposes the expansion of affordable healthcare, lower drug prices, and increased support for caregivers.
- Project 2025 wants to strip us of the current healthcare benefits we have, and close the door on the opportunity for expansion through the elimination of programs designed to address disparities, repealing the Affordable Care Act, and reducing Medicaid funding.
- Education -- Education is the door to opportunity, but our community continues to have that door shut in our faces.
 - Our 2025 protects and promotes Black teachers in the classroom, Black authors on the bookshelves, and Black students excelling to new heights with the support of their school system.
 - We may be fighting for acknowledgment that Black History is American History, but we're also fighting for a future for our children.
 - Black America needs investments in our local schools. Project 2025 wants to divert our hard-earned tax dollars to private institutions that seek to shut our children out, ban books, and dismantle programs that put people who look like us in the classroom.

OUR 2025

- We denounce Project 2025 and put forward Our 2025, a collection of policies aimed to benefit Black Americans and the entire nation.
- Project 2025 is an attempt to capture the U.S. government and twist it until it only serves the interests of a select few. Our 2025 seeks the prosperity of the people of this country.
- Our 2025 should be marked by higher wages, investments in our schools, pathways to progress within our criminal justice system, and so much more.

BLACK VOTERS

- Black voters play an important role in America's elections.

- We've turned out to vote year after year, casting deciding ballots at the state, local, and national levels that have made our progressive vision a reality.
- From electing judges who look like us to legislators who are fighting for our future. From lowering the cost of insulin to student loan forgiveness, Black America has been instrumental in securing policies and establishing precedents that improve all American lives.
- Over the past century, our vote has served as our voice, cutting through the noise and ensuring that our community is heard.
- There's much we've been able to accomplish and much we have yet to see realized, but one thing remains clear - we are all in on moving forward.

ELECTION 2024

- This election was never about a person or a party. It's about the policies that impact our lives every day. Reproductive rights, voting rights, affordable housing, and a liveable minimum wage are all on the ballot this November.
- We cannot - and will not - be distracted. We remain all in on securing these civil rights through voting and advocacy.
- We have work to do. Our right to vote is being challenged. Our history is being erased. This country is trying to walk back the equal access to opportunities that is everyone's right.
- The change we want to see will take all of us. We're helping each other register to vote, learn about candidates, and get to the polls. The NAACP is organizing volunteers to mobilize Black voters this fall.
- Text VOLUNTEER to 20707 to sign up to call or text Black voters to make sure they have everything they need to cast a ballot for the policies most important to them in November.

NAACP POLICY PRIORITIES

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Opportunities for All. It is critical that all progress made on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) from the federal government perspective is maintained and advanced. DEI initiatives are essential in creating a fair and just society where every individual has equal opportunities regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. These initiatives help to address systemic inequalities and ensure that marginalized communities are represented and included in all facets of society.

Currently, there are attempts in federal and state legislatures to dismantle DEI programs. Alarming, many federal appropriations measures include provisions that would roll back any progress that has been made in critical areas and functions of the federal government. It is imperative that we remain vigilant and proactive in defending these programs and advocating for policies that promote equity and inclusion for all. Maintaining and strengthening DEI initiatives is not only a moral imperative but also essential for the social and economic health of our nation.

Education

Protect and Expand the Teaching of Black History. The NAACP opposes efforts to ban the teaching of Black history, including Critical Race Theory (CRT), in schools. Black history is an integral part of American history, and understanding the contributions, struggles, and triumphs of Black Americans is essential for fostering a comprehensive and accurate understanding of our nation's past. Legislation that seeks to prohibit or limit the teaching of CRT and Black history undermines educational equity and perpetuates systemic racism. We must ensure that all students have access to a truthful and inclusive curriculum that reflects the diversity of our society and promotes analytical thinking.

Increase Higher Education Financial Aid. Expanding financial aid resources and prioritizing debt-free solutions for African-American students attending HBCUs, Minority Serving Institutions, colleges, universities, junior colleges, and technical/trade schools is essential for increasing educational opportunities

and closing the achievement gap. We support doubling the federal Pell Grant award and indexing the maximum award for inflation as the cost of education continues to rise. Pell Grant eligibility needs to be expanded to allow more students access to this program as they navigate the cost and challenges of higher education.

Environmental and Climate Justice

Prioritize Opportunities for Black Entrepreneurs in the Green Economy.

The shift away from fossil fuels must be systemic and equitable, ensuring communities of color are central to designing the new energy economy. The Environmental Justice Interagency Directive should be expanded to ensure racial justice includes equitable resource distribution.

Discontinue Energy Shut-Offs. Energy shut-offs should be permanently prohibited to protect low-income households. The electrical grid should transition to a publicly-owned model, limiting private ownership to community microgrids and residential/commercial rooftops.

Health and Well-Being

Prioritize Reproductive Justice and Health. Nearly two years ago, the Supreme Court overturned federal abortion rights via the Dobbs decision. Since then, many states have restricted abortion access, with more leaving the issue to ballots in November. Access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including contraception, family planning, and safe abortion services, is a fundamental right. Policies should ensure that all individuals, regardless of socio-economic status, have access to affordable and quality reproductive health care. Efforts must be made to dismantle barriers to reproductive health services, which disproportionately affect women of color, ensuring equitable health outcomes for all.

Food Security for All. Food insecurity was exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly among communities of color, and the disparities persist. Federal assistance should be increased, and eligibility requirements streamlined to ensure access to nutritious, affordable food in households, schools, and

institutional facilities. Alarming, current appropriations proposals threaten to strip funding from essential programs such as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and other critical food assistance programs. These cuts would disproportionately affect marginalized populations, making it harder for them to access the food they need to thrive. The Executive branch must remain committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable populations have access to sustenance.

Expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid is crucial to achieving health equity and ensuring that all Americans, particularly those in historically excluded communities, have access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare. Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act has already provided millions of low-income individuals with vital health coverage, improving health outcomes and financial stability for some of the most vulnerable populations. However, many states have yet to adopt expansion or are dis-enrolling individuals, leaving significant gaps in coverage that disproportionately affect Black and other historically excluded communities.

Medicaid expansion would extend coverage to millions more who are currently uninsured, reducing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. It would provide essential health services, including preventive care, mental health treatment, and chronic disease management, leading to healthier communities and reducing long-term healthcare costs. Furthermore, expanding Medicaid strengthens the healthcare system by providing more consistent funding to hospitals and clinics serving low-income populations, ensuring they can continue to offer critical services. The NAACP advocates for nationwide Medicaid expansion to close the coverage gap and advance health equity, opposing any efforts to roll back this progress. Access to healthcare is a fundamental right, and expanding Medicaid is a necessary step in ensuring that right is realized for all.

Guarantee Health Care for All. The NAACP calls for a universal healthcare system that ensures affordable, accessible, safe, high-quality, and social and culturally fluent care for all, regardless of coverage, employment, financial, or immigration status. The U.S. needs a unified healthcare system that prioritizes and assures optimal health for all people.

Inclusive Economy

Address High Housing Costs. The NAACP recognizes that the high cost of housing, both for renting and buying, is a significant barrier to economic stability for many Americans, particularly in communities of color. Policies must be implemented to make housing more affordable and accessible and hold accountable discriminatory practices. This includes increasing the availability of affordable housing units, providing rental assistance, and ensuring fair housing practices. Homeownership should be more attainable through down-payment assistance programs and affordable mortgage options. Addressing high housing costs will help reduce economic disparities and provide a pathway to financial security for more families.

Access to Capital. Capital is the lifeblood of revitalization, infrastructure, business, and the economy's stability. Historically, based on racist financial practices, Black communities have not gained the fiscal support to achieve an inclusive economy. As we look towards the 2024 election year, there is hope in the potential of inclusive economic policies to bring about positive change. However, this hope is threatened by the possibility of federal funding being cut based on political agendas. The NAACP believes that economic equity is crucial to racial equity. An inclusive economy means everyone can contribute and earn with fair access to resources and opportunities for Black people. The NAACP advocates for federal oversight of how monies are distributed to Black communities, fights to make federal, state, and municipal dollars available to Black communities, and advocates for more funding to MDIs, CDFIs, and HUD for programs that increase economic revitalization in Black communities.

Ensure Connectivity. Access to reliable and affordable broadband internet is essential in today's digital age, yet significant disparities persist, disproportionately affecting Black and historically excluded communities. Expanding broadband connectivity is crucial for equitable access to education, health-care, and employment. The digital divide exacerbates existing inequalities, leaving marginalized communities at a disadvantage. With the lapse of the Affordable Connectivity Program funding, it is imperative to reinstate and expand these programs to ensure low-income families can access high-speed internet.

Efforts must focus on providing high-speed internet to underserved areas and making broadband financially accessible for all. Investing in digital literacy programs will also help bridge the digital divide. The NAACP supports policies that promote universal broadband access and affordability, fostering economic growth, educational advancement, and better healthcare delivery through telehealth services. Expanding broadband connectivity is essential for achieving digital equity and social inclusion.

Implement a Federal Minimum Wage. A federal minimum wage starting at \$20.00/hour, indexed for inflation, is essential for lifting millions out of poverty and advancing wage equity. The minimum wage for all federal contractor staff should also be increased to \$20.00/hour immediately, without a phase-in period, ensuring that no federal contract workers are left behind.

Ensuring Federal Tax Policy That is Equitable and Benefits all Americans. 2025 presents an opportunity to correct key provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that ushered in tax cuts for wealthy Americans and corporations. The goal of tax reform should be to produce an economy that works for and benefits all Americans. Corporate America has begun lobbying Congress in favor of extending these tax cuts which are set to expire at the end of 2025. It is essential that tax reform be structured so that large corporations and wealthy Americans pay their fair share of taxes which means a higher tax rate than the one enacted with the TCJA rate.

Restore the Tax Expansions That Were Part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Congress must restore the tax expansions that provided support for children, families and workers who continue to experience discrimination and financial hardships. Expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC), that made the credit fully refundable for low and no-income families who are traditionally left out of receiving the full credit, lifted millions of children above the poverty line. During the 6-month period of full refundability, Black child poverty decreased from 16.9% in 2020 to 8.1% in 2021. The fully refundable CTC is a proven policy tool – one that greatly benefits children and families by helping to lift them out of poverty.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (ETIC) expansion in the ARP provided an

essential wage boost for millions of low-wage workers by raising the maximum credit amount. Approximately 16 million low-wage workers saw their incomes increase which assisted in lifting them above the poverty line. That expansion expired after 2021.

Incorporate Inclusive Economic Growth. There must be no corporate tax cuts or breaks without providing for families, children and workers through a fully refundable CTC and an expanded EITC. It is imperative that any and all tax reform policies include more inclusive economic growth by providing additional financial security and opportunity that narrows the ever-widening racial wealth gap by boosting economic mobility and security.

Voting Rights and Election Reform

Reform, Ensure and Protect the Right to Vote. Ensuring robust voting rights protection and improved election administration is vital for empowering the Black community and fostering full participation in democracy. Measures such as reinstating federal preclearance for states with histories of discriminatory practices are essential to protect against voter suppression. Comprehensive reforms like automatic and same-day voter registration, making Election Day a federal holiday, and enhancing election security would significantly increase voter participation among Black communities. Additionally, preventing partisan gerrymandering, protecting against voter intimidation and suppression, and establishing national standards for mail-in and early voting ensure equitable access to the ballot for Black voters.

These efforts address systemic barriers that have historically disenfranchised Black voters and promote fair, transparent, and accessible elections. By advocating for these changes, we can ensure that Black voters can exercise their right to vote freely and fairly, thereby strengthening the democratic process and ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and represented in the political arena. The NAACP is committed to pushing for these essential reforms and resisting any efforts to undermine the progress made in voting rights protection.

ABOUT THE NAACP

- The NAACP is a network of activists and community leaders across the country who are building Black political and social power through advocacy, litigation, and civic engagement.
- We work to secure a future where everyone can exercise their civil and human rights in every aspect of life – education, health, criminal justice, and the environment -- without discrimination.
- The NAACP is a grassroots organization that is fueled by local volunteers who drive culture and change in communities across the country.
- We amplify the voice of Black America to make sure solutions to our most pressing issues are equitable.