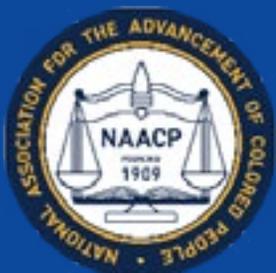




# Jobs and Policy at the State and Local Level

A Review and Assessment by the NAACP Economic Department



# Jobs and Policy at the State and Local Levels:

## Specific Demands for the State Government Leadership:

### **Governor**

- **Comply with the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA).** Numerous studies from across the political spectrum note this act will result in substantial numbers of jobs in healthcare related fields. California and Texas alone predict a combined 300,000 jobs over the next ten years in direct employment, with many more benefiting from the decrease in unemployment.
  - 1) Depending on the specific structure of the state it is often the Governor who will need to expand Medicaid eligibility but the Insurance commissioner would also be required to set up the insurance exchange demanded in the ACA bill.
- Governors of all States could **create a Council on Equity and Employment** to promote equality and diversity in their State's procurement and hiring practices in accordance with the existing NAACP resolutions . Furthermore, this council can seek out ways to include marginalized communities, such as minorities, who are traditionally excluded from public employment or procurement.

### **State Legislature**

- The NAACP has long advocated **for a minimum living wage** at least 30% above the Federal poverty level. At the State level, a minimum wage would significantly benefit lower income communities without corresponding negative impact on businesses as studies in Ohio and New Jersey have both demonstrated.
- The NAACP continues to vigorously **support the collective bargaining rights of workers** and demands that this right be supported by the governors and legislatures of all States , . We ask that the State legislature support the wage equality and economically beneficial ability of workers, both public and private, to bargain collectively for their compensation.
- State **governments could fund and expand transit networks throughout the state that expand opportunity for workers to connect with employers.** This includes rail, bus, and metro services that can be created or expanded in areas where they already exist. California has embarked on a visionary new goal to link all major cities via a rail infrastructure that will create a single labor market, much like the tri-state area around New York. These transportation networks are critical to providing access to jobs for many who otherwise could not access them , . Transportation projects are also critical sources of jobs and the NAACP has consistently supported the diversity in hiring and procurement for transportation projects .
- The NAACP supports the promise of **progressive taxation**, where those who are the most able bear the greater burden for the society they benefit from. Progressive taxes, like income and property taxes, provide more opportunity for low income families to begin to accumulate wealth. Regressive taxation such as sales tax, fees, and fines chip away at the meager earnings of low to moderate income families and make it even harder for them to save for housing, education, or medical expenses. The NAACP asks that state legislatures resist the imposition of burdensome regressive taxation and focus revenue generation on progressive solutions instead.

- State legislatures could increase their efforts to recruit, train, and pay for quality educators in their states. Teachers make up the largest segment of public employees lost to the false ideology of austerity. The teacher fulfills two critical roles in the local job market, they are a valued employee able to reinvest their income in housing, goods, and services on the local market of course, but they are also an attractor of jobs to a local area. The NAACP calls on State legislatures to hire and retain well qualified teachers.

## ***Local Communities***

- A local community is often able to act more quickly and with greater leeway than the State government. The NAACP asks that cities, counties, and towns seek ways to implement this agenda without waiting on their State government. Many of these items can be accomplished at the local level as well as statewide. Cities and counties with significant demand on local labor have successfully increased their economic activity with “living wage” ordinances. Taxation at the local level can take progressive forms, rather than relying on fees and charges that have the effect of claiming a larger percentage of low income families wealth than progressive solutions.
- The majority of public employees lost over the past decade have been at the local level, and the NAACP calls on all local communities to replaced lost teachers, police, and fire department positions. These roles are important for the service they provide and the income they generate for the local community. Finally, local transit options are lacking in urban areas where communities of color often reside. This denies them access to education, healthcare, and jobs. Local communities must expand the access to transit in low income and minority areas.