



# People's Action builds the power of poor and working people, in rural, suburban and urban areas, to win change through issue campaigns and elections.

When we say "poor and working people," we mean all of us who are hurt by corporations and the wealthy few: poor people, low-income people, working class people, professionals, small business owners and unemployed people. We mean Black, White, Latino, Asian and Native people. We

mean youth and students, and we mean retired people, elderly people and people with disabilities. We mean men, women, transgender, and gender non-conforming people. We mean straight people and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer people. We mean citizens, and we mean immigrants.

All of us.

# our work together is based on a number of

#### AN ECONOMY FOR ALL OF US

When people have power to make decisions, we put communities before corporations and people before profit. All poor and working people, whether Black, White, or Brown, should be able to live a good life where our basic needs are met and we do not have to struggle just to get by.

#### WE CAN REPAIR OUR HISTORY .....

This country is for all of us. We commit to repairing the long-standing racial inequality that has shaped this country and divided us from one another. We want everybody in, nobody out.

#### **Corporate Control**

The wealthy few and private corporations have taken over our economy and government. They put their own profits first. They have driven us into a period of deep economic inequality, ecological crises and state-sanctioned violence.

#### **Weakened Government**

The wealthy few have distorted and demonized the role of government, claiming that "government is the problem." Meanwhile, they reshape our government to suit themselves. Funding for essential public programs has been taken away and given to private interests. Whole sections of our government have been put directly in the hands of the rich and powerful. This makes it harder to win solutions for our collective problems.

#### WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

The health and well-being of all people and the planet are interconnected. It is our purpose and responsibility to treat each other and the earth with respect.

### GOVERNMENT FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Truly democratic government is an essential tool for solving our collective challenges. We reclaim the value of government and our role in governing.

WHAT'S
IN THE WAY
OF MAKING
OUR VALUES
MOVE IN THE
WORLD?

#### We Don't Have the Support We Need to Weather Hard Times

The billionaire class has rolled back our social safety net. Our communities are expected to navigate these difficult times without meaningful social support programs or a strong public infrastructure. Our lives are being sacrificed for their profits.

#### **Historic Inequalities**

There are deeply embedded systems of inequality - like white supremacy, sexism and the suppression of Native communities – that continue to shape

our society. These systems shape all of our lives, whether we are Black, White or Brown.

#### We are Divided From Each Other

Even though our greatest hope is to join together across our differences to secure the changes that we all need to survive and thrive, poor and working people have been divided from each other by the wealthy few, who intentionally sow racism and other divisions to keep us apart.

#### **White Nationalism**

White nationalism is a particularly dangerous political movement that is on the rise around the country. It is the sharpest front of the deeper system of racism in our society and the worst manifestation of the divisions between us. If we are going to win a better future for us all, we have to confront white nationalism directly.

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### LONG-TERM AGENDA

# to overcome structural barriers and build a new economy and society

### ALL PEOPLE, NOT THE WEALTHY FEW, CONTROL THE ECONOMY

We will dismantle this structure in which too much money is controlled by too few, and win an economy governed democratically for the common good. Working people will finally have dignity and democracy in their workplaces.

#### WE HAVE REAL DEMOCRACY

We will break the control that corporations and the wealthy have over our government, our political process and our economy. Instead, communities will have the power to fully participate in the decisions that affect their lives, gaining more control over our government and the economy, and enacting policies that serve the public good.

#### WE HAVE RACIAL JUSTICE

We will finally address the underlying structural barriers to racial equity and opportunity. We will repair the ways in which racism was built into the foundations of our economy and society through the enslavement of African people and the genocide of Native people.

#### WE HAVE GENDER JUSTICE

We will value women's work, in our homes, workplaces and society, rather than treating that work as less valuable and women as invisible. We will build a world in which women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people experience safety and self-determination, rather than violence and harassment.

#### WE HAVE A SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL ECONOMY

We will take bold action on a global scale to protect our planet and every one of us. As we transform our economy, we will rebuild sustainability and invest first in the communities that have experienced the most devastating effects of environmental destruction and economic exclusion.

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that reorganizes wealth and power, taking power out of the hands of the wealthy few and putting it where it belongs: in the hands of everyday people.



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We want to take more and more aspects of our daily lives out of the private market and put them in public hands, so everyone's basic needs can be met.



#### **SHEALTH CARE**

THE PROBLEM IS // All people deserve health care, but millions struggle to access the care they need, when they need it. As a result, many in our communities are sick and dying needlessly. Drug corporations, medical institutions, insurance companies and Wall Street all extract exorbitant profits off of our suffering, while we endure poverty,

bankruptcy, and homelessness. Racism increases the disparities in health outcomes, shaping who lives and who dies. Patients are put at risk when the labor of health care workers is not valued, and when health care workers are subjected to inadequate pay and heavy workloads.

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We believe healthcare is a human right and a public good. The pathway to this reality is through Improved Medicare for All: a universal, single-payer health care system, guaranteed for all by our government. We need a public health care system that takes power out of the hands of corporations and puts it back in the hands of the people.

We must invest in urban and rural communities, in long term care, and in ending the opioid crisis. We must protect Native sovereignty and serve all people, regardless of age, race, class, gender identity, sexual identity or disability. The workers in this system deserve the safeguarded right to organize without interference, to have high-quality jobs, good wages, strong benefits, and safe workloads.

Our Improved Medicare for All system must serve the people, not corporate interests or profits.

#### HOUSING

**THEPROBLEMIS** // Everyone needs housing to survive, but our current system prioritizes profits for developers, landlords and Wall Street over truly affordable, safe and healthy housing for the people. This is possible because our housing system is based on private property and land speculation. More and more families face housing insecurity, substandard housing, evictions

homelessness. Funding for public housing and tenant protections are being taken away. Communities of color have been shut out of intergenerational wealth by decades of racist policies. Many poor and working folks - whether in cities, suburbs or small towns and rural areas - simply don't have anyplace decent to live.

#### OUK SOLUTION

In the richest country in the history of the world we can ensure that everyone has a **Homes Guarantee** that gives all people safe, sustainable and truly affordable housing, no matter who they are, where they live or how much money they have.

Private investors focus on profits and have never provided high-quality affordable housing for all, so the public sector must step in. We need truly affordable homes for the millions who experience homelessness and housing insecurity. We need to strengthen and enforce tenants' rights, including universal rent control.

Rather than a private system designed for banks and corporations to extract wealth from our communities, we need to dramatically expand public and social housing, community land trusts and shared equity housing. We need an expanded public housing system that delivers housing that people can afford and thrive in, and over which residents have significant democratic control. Public investments in housing should also provide a source of quality jobs for our communities.



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THE PROBLEM IS // Public education is a cornerstone of a democratic society, but long-standing patterns of racial and economic segregation have led to severe inequities in public education. Decades of funding cuts have eroded public education for all, while the fact that school funding is based on property taxes exacerbates inequality between communities. These

challenges are intensified by efforts to privatize our public education and to increase the presence of police in our schools. Privatizers blame teachers and teachers' unions for shortfalls in public education, but the real problem has been the widespread and intentional defunding of our public education system which has undermined our educational infrastructure.

### OUR SOLUTION

We demand that there are strong, fully funded neighborhood public schools in every community. Schools must meet the needs, interests, and abilities of every child - Native, rural, urban, and poor students; girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students, differently abled students, immigrant students and students of color. We need more equitable systems for funding public schools that intentionally address disparities between neighborhoods. prioritizing struggling schools and repairing unhealthy learning environments. We must end policing and punishment that masquerades as school discipline and replace them with solutions that work, like restorative justice practices and investment in school counselors. We believe in communities and teachers having more say over our curriculum so that our education reflects our true history and prepares students to lead, question and think critically. Educators do some of the most important work in our society. They should be assured good pay, strong benefits, smaller class sizes and the right to organize.

#### **SOLUTION** CARE WORK

THE PROBLEM IS // Women's caring labor for children and the elderly has long been made invisible in our economy. Today, we are facing a crisis of care, as women have become the majority of the workforce in the United States. Society hasn't responded by developing effective ways to provide for the labor of care. The costs of childcare and eldercare are too much for most families, who struggle to find care for their loved ones. The costs of private care have ballooned while social programs have been defunded. The burdens of this system fall heavily on the shoulders of care workers, a workforce which is disproportionately women of color and who struggle with low pay, long hours and disrespect.

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We recognize the value of all work, both in and out of the home. We need a caring economy with Universal Family Care: government programs that ensure that all families have access to paid medical and family leave, governmentsupported childcare and universal long-term care. People should have access to care where they choose, whether in a home or an institution. Care workers should have quality jobs, with access to government protections and full benefits.



#### HIGHER EDUCATION

THE PROBLEM IS // All people deserve access to quality education, but people in power continue to treat higher education as a commodity or as a luxury available only to those who are wealthy and white. Over the past 30 years, federal and state governments have slashed public education spending, and the cost of higher education has outpaced inflation by nearly 400 percent. Scholarships and financial aid have dwindled under austerity measures,

while education profiteers - private loan providers, hedge funds, and a federal government increasingly controlled by the wealthy elite - exploit low-income students, women, and students of color, who carry a disproportionately large amount of student loan debt. More and more universities are turning away from hiring tenured faculty and rely on poorly-paid adjuncts and graduate student instructors, closing the door on higher education as a viable career path.

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Calls for piecemeal reforms such as tuition freezes and "college affordability" are not enough. To change our culture of education we demand Free College for All.

This includes undocumented students, formerly and currently incarcerated students, older students and vocational students. Free college must cover all costs, including tuition, books and living expenses, so all students get the chance to study and invest in our future. We also demand student debt forgiveness so the generation of Americans that has been stifled by outrageous loan debt can realize their dreams. We must expand public higher education, setting more explicit expectations about what it means to be "public," including who they serve, how they are funded, the quality of education provided, and excluding institutions that reinforce racial disparities.

We support professors, adjuncts and graduate student instructors around the country who are organizing for decent workloads, adequate pay and stronger benefits.

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#### **ENERGY AND UTILITIES**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // We all need access to clean energy, air and water in our daily lives. But undemocratic and profit-driven utilities keep this out of reach. They treat our utilities as commodities and they raise our bills. Our electric grids rely on centralized dirty energy sources that pollute our air, water and climate. These impacts fall heaviest on low-income communities and on Black, Brown and Native communities. More and

more public utilities are being privatized, while public utilities struggle due to the lack of public investment. Even the transition to renewable energy is being driven by the wealthy few, who hope to control this growing new industry. The jobs that clean energy and green infrastructure can create are not currently helping the communities that need them most.

#### OUR SOLUTION

Utilities – both energy and water – should be handled fully within the public sphere. This means **fully funding public utilities**, stopping the drive towards utility privatization and bringing private utilities under government control. Public utilities should be decentralized and democratically governed through local bodies representative of the communities that rely on these services. We should move away from treating utilities as commodities, even when they are owned by public entities.

We need to end government subsidies for fossil fuel and nuclear power. Instead, there should be massive public investment – from both federal and state governments - in the transition to renewable energy sources, energy conservation, and green infrastructure. While most utilities are managed at the state level, we need federal investment to support these transitions to clean energy and water infrastructure that protects people and ecosystems. The jobs that are created through this transition should prioritize low-income people and Black, Brown and Native communities.



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We want to restrict corporate power and increase the power that working people have in our economy.

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#### **MAKE CORPORATIONS RESPONSIVE TO WORKING PEOPLE**

THE PROBLEM IS // For decades, politicians have been rolling back regulations on big finance, real estate, corporate agriculture, big pharma, tech corporations, big oil, and more. Deregulation has reduced corporate transparency and accountability; it has led

to the growth of corporate monopolies which put the profits of their CEOs and largest shareholders over the needs of their workers and communities. It has decreased the collective power that working people have over the economy and over their lives.

#### OUK SOLUTION

We need a return to meaningful and effective corporate regulation. We support a range of strategic pathways, including policies to break up corporate monopolies, policies to bring corporations under democratic public control and efforts to rewrite antitrust laws so they prevent the formation of monopolies in the first place. Corporations which are found guilty of major violations or gross mismanagement should face dissolution, the equivalence of a corporate death penalty.

Corporations should be required to not interfere with the right of the people whose labor creates their revenue to join together and collectively bargain with management; they should also be required to cap and index CEO pay relative to the median pay of their workers. It should be mandatory for corporate boards to be restructured to include significant worker representation and to be accountable to a range of stakeholders, not just their shareholders.





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#### REDUCE THE POWER OF FINANCE

THE PROBLEM IS // The financial system should channel investments into the real economy-- to support those businesses that offer dignified jobs, homeownership, and secure retirement. But instead, big banks and private funds rig the rules by manipulating regulations, sidestepping taxes and spending vast sums on lobbying and political contributions. The creeping "financialization" of our economy and our democracy means corporate and government decision-making increasingly

serves their predatory interests. Investors, like private equity firms and hedge funds, whose sole interest is extracting profit are gaining increasing control of larger and larger sections of our economy: businesses, housing, education, consumer lending, infrastructure, energy, and even the justice system. They apply their "take the money and run" approach, which harms workers, tenants and communities. This extraction of wealth hurts us all, and it hits women and Black and Brown communities hardest.

#### • OUR SOLUTION

We need to **restructure our financial system** so it serves our families and communities, not big banks and private fund managers. We can change incentive structures so they stop rewarding speculation and greed and instead incentivize public financial services like community banks and public banks.

We want to push for regulations that make financial markets fairer, including laws that protect consumers from lending discrimination and shield borrowers from predatory practices. We want to make sure that regulatory agencies hold financial players accountable when they break the rules, and that Wall Street pays its fair share of taxes. Again, we support multiple pathways for reforming financial corporations including breaking up big banks and bringing them under democratic public control so they can no longer privatize their profits while socializing their risks. We can reduce their power to manipulate the system and reduce the risk of future financial crises. We can make our society less dependent on finance through public programs like free college, health care for all, and higher wages for work that will make families less dependent on borrowing.

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### RESHAPE HOW GOVERNMENT REVENUE IS RAISED AND SPENT

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Over the last 50 years, tax rates for the wealthiest have dropped by nearly two thirds, from 90 percent to 37 percent. Numerous tax loopholes allow the wealthy to pay far less in taxes than their fair share, sometimes paying no taxes at all. This loots the resources available for essential

public programs, and it also provides an incentive for the wealthy to grab and hoard as much as they can. Meanwhile, a huge part of tax revenue is spent on military programs, rather than on the social programs that our communities need.

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In order to fully fund government programs and to redistribute wealth more equitably in our society, we should return to the **progressive taxation model** of the last century, where millionaires and billionaires were taxed at 70 percent or more. We need to close tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy. We must increase inheritance taxes and implement a wealth tax, which will help close the racial wealth gap and deal with the economic distortions caused by huge accumulations of wealth. The federal budget should cut military spending and use that money to fund programs to close the wealth gap and deal with many of the issues that extreme income inequality have created, such as affordable housing programs, education, environmental and infrastructure restoration, care for veterans and their families, coverage for medical care, and investments in disadvantaged communities. These programs should, to the extent possible, be overseen by the stakeholders themselves.

## RESHAPE TRADE POLICY : TO RAISE GLOBAL STANDARDS

**THE PROBLEM IS** // While politicians and the media tell us our jobs and quality of life are threatened by workers in other countries, we know that the real threat comes from corporations and from trade laws that were written to favor transnational corporate interests: without protections for

workers, communities or the environment. These corporations have driven us into a global race to the bottom and decimated high-quality jobs in the United States. In our global economy, an injustice anywhere in the world is a threat to justice everywhere, including the U.S.

#### • OUR SOLUTION

We want to build a world in which **all** working people and communities are protected from abuses by global corporate power. We demand trade policies that include legally binding global standards for wages and labor rights, which will put an end to the global "race to the bottom" that is destroying livelihoods and communities in the U.S. and around the world. We will rewrite trade deals that allow private corporations to sue a country for protecting its people and land from corporate pollution or exploitation. We will work to ensure that future trade deals include strong and enforceable protections for the environment and respect the sovereignty of indigenous people.

#### JOBS, POWER AND DIGNITY IN WORK

**THE PROBLEM IS** // An economy that is growing on paper, but is no longer delivering better jobs for average workers. At the heart of the problem is our broken labor law system which prevents workers from bargaining for a fair share of economic gains. With the decline of manufacturing and unionization, we have seen a decline in the number of workers who have access to high-quality, full-time jobs with benefits and protections.

Job growth has instead been concentrated in unprotected, low-wage industries, like retail and care work. Cuts to workplace regulations and the non-enforcement of existing regulations have left fewer and fewer workers protected, while the minimum wage and other protections have stagnated for decades. The gap between corporate CEOs and their employees gets wider every day.



We need to create a new legal architecture that will empower workers, and enable them to play a more expansive role in our economy and our democracy. Under a boldly re-envisioned labor law system, bargaining needs to get bigger, encompassing sectoral and community-wide standards. And worker collective action needs to get stronger and become better-protected so that workers can stand up for their rights to dignity at work, to fair wages and safe workplaces, and to collectively bargain without fear that they will lose their livelihood.

We should end the exclusion of many low-wage workers - including domestic workers, farm workers, gig economy workers, many of whom are workers of color - from employment and labor rights and expand these rights for all workers. We demand that technology be used to improve our lives, instead of forcing us into unstable work or unemployment. Working people should have the right to organize unions free from corporate interference and to build better lives for themselves.



## INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FAMILY FARMS

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Family farms have faced decline for decades, as government policies shifted towards promoting free-market solutions and corporate agriculture. Corporate farms have gotten bigger and bigger, and big agriculture now controls the

overwhelming majority of cropland in the U.S. These factory farms often pollute our waterways with toxic farming methods and pesticides, and they abuse and exploit the labor of the people who work on their farms.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We want a farming system that **cares for farmers and the land**, supports strong communities, and makes healthy food available to everyone. We call for an immediate moratorium on factory farms. We support independent family farmers that create vibrant rural communities and economies and a healthy sustainable food system--we need policies that support family farms, parity pricing for their crops, and price floors and supply management. We believe in targeted support for farmers of color and indigenous farmers whose land has been systematically taken from them.

Farmworkers deserve living wages and dignified working conditions, and they should be included in employment and labor protections. We fight for a return to the dignity of the family farm and sustainable food systems that include an end to the use of toxic pesticides that threaten us all and our land. We demand healthy food for every person, including an end to food deserts and access to healthy, affordable food for every family in every community.

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We want to build equity and sustainability into our economy and society.

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#### **RACIAL EQUITY**

THE PROBLEM IS // Centuries of racial oppression, colonization and slavery continue to manifest in systemic racial inequities in our society today. Racial inequity shapes the distribution of income and wealth in our society today, as well as rates of homeownership. It has led to occupational and neighborhood segregation, educational inequality and

environmental and health disparities, and it manifests painfully in state-sanctioned violence and the mass incarceration of Black, Brown and Native communities. All of these impacts fall hardest on women of color. While universal solutions are an important part of the remedy to these forms of inequality, they are not sufficient.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We believe in targeted programs that seek to **repair the historic inequities** that have created uniquely challenging conditions for Black, Brown and Native people, including substantial reparations and significant targeted investments in education, housing, jobs, healthcare, cultural institutions remediation of environmental injustices for each of these communities. See more on our solutions to mass incarceration and other forms of state violence in section 5 of this document.

#### **GENDER EQUITY**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // The devaluation and invisibilization of women's labor is not the only gender equity problem we face. Women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people face persistent violence

and control over their bodies and their relationships, through both public policy and interpersonal violence. These impacts fall hardest on women and trans people of color.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We believe that women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people deserve **self-determination and safety** at all times, at home and in public. We work for bold solutions to dismantle gender-based oppression including guaranteed access to healthcare for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

We must guarantee access to reproductive rights, equal access to economic success, strengthening and expanding civil rights, and an end to gendered violence and harassment.

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#### SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY

**THE PROBLEM IS** // We are living through profound climate and environmental crises that are changing life as we know it. These crises are the result of our society's choice of economy and government that put profits over people and planet as well as decades of manufactured doubt about global warming generated by the fossil fuel industry. They are

the product of centuries of structural racism and economic inequality, and their impacts hit low-income communities and Black, Brown and Native communities hardest. Our communities live on the frontlines of climate and environmental crises, and we are being sacrificed in the name of profit.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We believe that everyone has a right to breathe clean air and drink clean water. We need a just transition to a new economy in the United States; an economy that works for all of us, one that puts **people and planet – not profits – first**. We oppose windfall profits to polluters, and demand that polluters pay the price that our communities have paid for too long. We also demand that we keep dirty fuels - like fossil fuels and uranium - in the ground where they belong. We must rebuild our economy to be more sustainable.

We demand a 100% Just Green New Deal that will transition us to cleaner energy sources that keep energy affordable, restore funding for clean water and Superfund cleanups, create high-quality green jobs, and put the control of energy in our hands, not the hands of the 1 percent. As we transition to a sustainable economy, we can create high-quality green jobs while repairing and mitigating historic harms, through solutions that are focused on the communities that have been impacted most severely.

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# We want to expand democratic control of government.

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### REDUCE CORPORATE CONTROL OVER OUR DEMOCRACY

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Our political system is dominated by big money and special interests. This imbalance continually favors wealthy elites and routinely fails to deliver policies that address the needs and aspirations of everyday people from all walks of life. These consequences are particularly acute for working class people, communities of color, and others who are underrepresented in our political system. People don't trust elected officials to make

decisions in their interest, because we see how politicians consistently choose the interests of the billionaire class and corporations who bankroll their campaigns over the interests of working families and the public. They see the revolving door between government and corporations, with former government officials being given well-paid positions by the same companies they were meant to regulate.

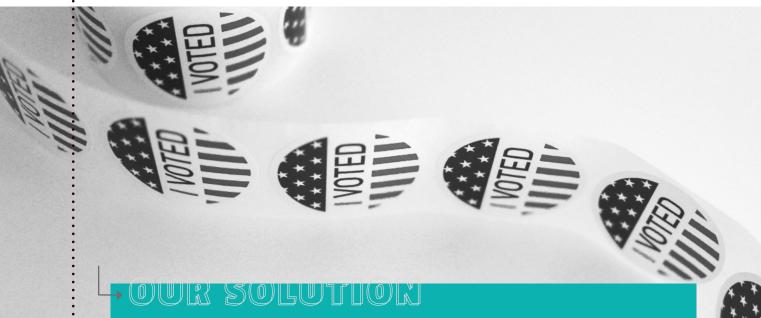
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We demand a government that reflects and is responsive to its people, with elected officials who truly represent the communities they serve. First and foremost, we demand passage and ratification of a constitutional amendment to **end the corrosive effect of big money on government and elections**, by overturning misguided Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United v. FEC. We demand policies that promote a more inclusive democracy, such as public financing for federal elections, which engages a more diverse donor base, amplifies the voices of small donors, restricts contributions from corporations and other "dark money" actors, and makes it possible for more racially and economically diverse candidates to run for and win elected office. We want candidates who turn down money from Wall Street, Big Pharma, Fossil Fuels, and any corporate interest that seeks to distort our democracy through legalized bribery.

#### **EXPAND VOTING RIGHTS**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Too often, our right to democratic participation through voting has been made inconvenient and inaccessible. Anti-democraticforcestrytomakeregistering and voting confusing, cumbersome, and costly. Without the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), millions are subject to racially discriminatory voting laws and policies. Mass incarceration makes democratic participation impossible

for millions, particularly for communities of color, who are denied the right to vote while incarcerated and even after reintegrating into their communities. And even more millions of U.S. citizens — a majority of whom are people of color — are denied a meaningful right to vote because they live in unrepresented jurisdictions, like Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.



We demand the **strengthening of democratic institutions** to ensure every person can exercise their vote and trust that their vote will be accurately counted. We call for the restoration of the protections of the VRA with proactive enforcement power over jurisdictions with repeated voting rights violations and those that institute practices that are known to be discriminatory and disenfranchising.

We also demand the enactment of policies that ensure all eligible people can participate in elections, including automatic voter registration, same day and Election Day registration, online voter registration, and pre-registration for 16 & 17 year olds; robust early voting periods, no-excuse absentee voting, curbside voting for the elderly and people with disabilities, and language access at the ballot box; and prison and jail voting. We demand the full re-enfranchisement of returning citizens and an end to the practice of disenfranchisement based on conviction history. We also call for statehood for the District of Columbia and an end to ongoing U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico through the right to self-determination for all Puerto Ricans.

## PROTECT NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

**THE PROBLEM IS** //
The painful history of colonization and genocide and the ongoing impact of

structural racism continue to shape the daily realities of Native people.

#### LOUR SOLUTION

We demand that all levels of government honor treaty obligations and respect full **tribal sovereignty**. From environmental justice to health to economic development to state violence to voting rights, we demand that Tribal Nations and indigenous communities get the resources, investment and legal rights they deserve to ensure the protection of their treaty, legal and inherent rights to protect their land and resources, culture and sacred sites for the health and well-being of all.

#### **PEOPLE-CENTERED GOVERNANCE**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Too often, we draw a bright line between running elections and governing. We throw in to help get good candidates elected, but then leave it up to them to govern. We are supposed

to "wait and see" how they do, while they try to navigate pressure from other elected officials and big money on their own. This usually doesn't end well.

### OUR SOLUTION

We want all elected officials to actually play the role of representing their community, and we want our **communities to "co-govern" with elected officials**. To do that, they must find ways to engage with their communities before they write policy, vote on legislation and so on. We want transparency and community involvement in setting the policy agenda; robust opportunities for community input and engagement as legislation is drafted, debated, and voted on; and accountability measures when lawmakers vote against the will of the people. We want working people involved not only in making the laws, but in implementing and enforcing them as well through oversight boards, co-enforcement of workplace standards, and other measures. When needed, we will be in the streets building outside pressure to make sure that our shared agenda can actually move.

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# We want to divest from punishment, and invest in support and social programs.

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#### **END MASS INCARCERATION**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Our current system of mass incarceration was built on racism, specifically the subjugation of Black people. Our prison pipeline disproportionately impacts Black, Brown and Native communities. Mass incarceration is facilitated by racist local law enforcement,

the unchecked power of local prosecutors, and by a racially biased judicial system. Rather than treating poverty, mental illness, addiction, and homelessness as social problems to be addressed through social programs, these conditions have been criminalized and punished.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We need to **reverse** the policies that have led to the militarization of the police and the **mass incarceration** of millions of people in this country. We will organize to hold police accountable and to elect local prosecutors who will choose alternatives to incarceration over punishment.

Together, we will build truly safe communities based on restorative justice, harm reduction, treatment, and real investments in our communities. We will foster programs that can repair and restore the historic harms caused by these programs, particularly in Black, Brown, and Native communities.





#### **SEND THE WAR ON DRUGS**

THE PROBLEMIS // The "War on Drugs" was based on racism rather than on compassion or evidence-based approaches to drug treatment. As a result, the war on drugs has made our nation the global leader in both incarceration and overdose deaths. It has cost our nation trillions of dollars, while doing nothing to reduce the harms associated with drug misuse. Meanwhile, large drug corporations reap billions in profits from the promotion of drugs that have exacerbated our current addiction and overdose crisis.

The vilification of drug use has been a racialized strategy that has harmed Black and Brown communities for decades. As the body count from our opioid crisis rises in white rural and working class communities too, we can see how we all share an interest in challenging the racism underlying the War on Drugs. Many of the same policies that criminalized Black and Brown people, like "drug-induced homicides," are now being used on poor white users in rural areas.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We support the decriminalization of drugs, the release of people who have been incarcerated for their drug use, and the expungement of their records. The economic returns of legalization must be invested equitably, first and foremost in the Black and Brown communities that have been most ravaged by the war on drugs.

We support deep investments in drug treatment and mental health programs to deal with the scale of the problem, including access to Medically Assisted Treatment. We support harm reduction approaches like safe injection sites and overdose prevention procedures. These programs can be funded by redirecting government resources from criminalization towards public health interventions and, secondarily, by taxing big pharma companies for the public health impacts of their products.



#### **DIGNITY FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Our current immigration policies tear families apart, relying on racialized appeals to "build the wall" and militarize our borders. Rather than prioritizing supportive services, our government currently handles immigration through the criminal justice system. Rather than developing proactive plans to welcome

the immigrants and address the global flow of refugees, our politicians have chosen to deny people access to our country based on their race or religion. These policies destabilize the lives of working immigrants, leaving them open to exploitation by their employers, landlords, and local service providers.

### OUR SOLUTION

We believe that our country's strength comes from its history of welcoming immigrants. We should welcome people from all nations and faith traditions to our country, especially those who seek haven from state, criminal and domestic violence. We want to **disentangle our immigration system from the criminal justice system**, starting with an end to the coordination between local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In its place, we need to build a just immigration system that affords refugees, asylees, and immigrants a full place in our society, our economy, and our democracy. This system would include permanent residency and a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented people, including Dreamers and their parents, as well as to Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure recipients, and safe haven policies for refugees and asylees.

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#### TRANSFORM FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY

**THE PROBLEM IS** // Since 2001, the United States has been in a state of continuous war, which has harmed both U.S. soldiers and civilians in nations around the world, and has cost trillions of dollars that could have otherwise been spent on social programs. These wars are an extension of the long history of racialized violence and wars waged by the United States government, and are a part of our history that need to end now. The military primarily

recruits young working class people and Black, Brown, and Native people to serve as soldiers, training them to kill and be killed while claiming to offer social advancement. The painful physical and emotional burdens of war trauma fall disproportionately on the poor and on Black, Brown, and Native communities. These wars have - in part - been due to illegal executive overreach, which has limited Congress' constitutionally assured oversight of U.S. foreign policy.

#### OUR SOLUTION

We want to quickly bring these endless wars to responsible conclusions and **stop needless U.S. military interventions** around the world. We want to dramatically reduce the size of our military, and we want the trillions of government dollars that flow into the coffers of the military and private contractors to be used to fund programs that care for people, both here and abroad. This includes meaningful support and services for our veterans. We want to end executive overreach and return authority over foreign policy to Congress.

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Based on our platform, there are several key issues that we want to focus on lifting up into the national debate in 2019 and 2020. These issues were selected based on our shared work as a national network, including both existing and emerging national campaigns.

You can find a full description of our positions on each of these issues on the "Key Issues" platform document.

#### **IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR**

We demand Improved Medicare for All, a universal, single-payer system for the health care we all deserve.

We need a homes quarantee that reinvests in public housing, ends homelessness, creates strong protections for renters and low-income homeowners, and pays reparations to Black and Brown families hurt by racist housing policies.

We demand Free College for All, which would cover all educational costs. including tuition, books, and living expenses, so all students get the chance to study and invest in our future.

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## % & CLEAN ALL

100% Just is a campaign that seeks to end the use of dirty energy, ensure racial and economic equity in this transition, and move from corporate control of the energy sector to public and community control.

#### To address the overdose COLLEGE crisis, we want to end the criminalization drugs and drug users, and build a public health and compassion centered

END THE OVER-OSE CRISIS

#### **END MASS** INCAR-**CERATION**

People's Action working with partners to fight mass incarceration in both immigration detention and our criminal justice system.

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infrastructure.

\*We also strongly endorse DIGNITY FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES. The detailed content of this section is being developed by the People's Action member organizations that organize around these issues, and will be added to an updated version of this platform document in the future.

We want a federal jobs guarantee, federal minimum wage of at least \$15, and meaningful labor rights so that all workers can join and form unions.

