

THE 14-POINT PEOPLE'S AGENDA 2008 FOR NC

Initiated by the North Carolina NAACP

1. All Children Need High Quality, Well Funded, Diverse Schools.

North Carolina's constitution and courts require adequate and diverse schools for all children in the state. The legislature must provide the funding to fully resource poor schools and to place special leadership in failing schools. The state must not allow school districts to re-segregate their schools.

2. Livable Wages and Support for Low-Income People.

North Carolina workers must be paid livable wages that keep them out of poverty and hunger. The legislature must fully fund the state's childcare subsidy system and more training and education for low-wage workers, and raise the minimum wage toward a living wage of \$12.32/hour.

3. Health Care for All.

North Carolina must provide its people with affordable health insurance and prescription drug coverage. The legislature must fund public health programs to treat HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, diabetes, obesity, and diseases caused by environmental pollution, which plague Black and poor communities.

4. Redress Two Ugly Chapters in North Carolina's Racist History.

The North Carolina legislature must fulfill the 1898 Wilmington Riot Commission recommendations as redress for the overthrow of the bi-racial Wilmington municipal government that year. The legislature also must pay damages to the poor, mainly Black, women forcibly sterilized by North Carolina from 1947 to 1977.

5. Same-Day Voter Registration and Public Financing of Elections.

To more fully enfranchise North Carolina citizens, they must be able to both register and vote on election days. All campaigns for state office should be publicly financed to reduce the influence of money in elections and strengthen democracy.

6. Lift Every Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

North Carolina must financially support the HBCUs that have sustained Black communities through decades of discrimination, to develop equitable infrastructure and programs with doctoral-level leadership for today's challenges.

7. Redress 200 Years of State Discrimination in Hiring and Contracting.

The legislature must commission historical documentation of its contracting practices with racial minorities for constitutional redress of discrimination.

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8. Provide Affordable Housing and Stop Consumer Abuse.

The North Carolina legislature must increase annual funding for the NC Housing Trust Fund to assist low-income renters, disabled veterans, and others in poverty to obtain secure housing. The legislature must protect consumers against predatory lending and foreclosures.

9. Abolish the Death Penalty & Racially-Biased Mandatory Sentencing; Reform our Prisons.

The North Carolina legislature must abolish the death penalty, since courts have convicted the innocent and have disproportionately applied capital punishment toward Black people. Drug offense sentencing laws must not target minority communities disproportionately, and alternative sentencing to treatment and education for nonviolent drug offenses must be fully funded, instead of funding more prison construction.

10. Put Young People to Work to Save the Environment and to Fight for Environmental Justice.

North Carolina must establish an Environmental Job Corps for young people who did not graduate from high school to re-engage them in public service. NC must fight protect its low-income and minority communities from pollution, and require energy and resource conservation of all public programs and contracts.

11. Justice for Smithfield Workers and Collective Bargaining for Public Employees.

North Carolina must allow its public employees' unions to negotiate work issues with their employers in a mutually respectful manner. North Carolina must enforce work safety and health requirements at Smithfield Foods' meatpacking plant in Tarheel, NC, and protect the workers' rights to unionize.

12. Protect the Rights of Immigrants from Latin America and Other Nations.

NC must protect immigrants' access to health care, education, workers' rights and protection from discrimination, regardless of the status of their documentation.

13. Organize, Strengthen and Fund Our Civil Rights Enforcement Agencies and Statutes Now.

14. Bring Our Troops Home from Iraq Now. *The federal government must withdraw U.S. troops immediately from Iraq, properly care for wounded and disabled veterans, re-settle Iraqi refugees, and correct this costly misadventure through **diplomacy** engaging **all** governments in the region and through **development** aid to civilian programs in Iraqi communities.*

For more information about these measures, visit www.hkonj.com.
This agenda is endorsed by the North Carolina Council of Churches,
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