



THE WEST VIRGINIA
**BLACK POLICY
AGENDA 2024**

The West Virginia Black Policy Agenda is community-rooted and community-driven—a roadmap to a thriving West Virginia where every person can live a happy, healthy life in safe and flourishing communities.

It is a living document that we are continuing to refine and add policies to, based on input from BIPOC+ West Virginians.

You can tell us what you'd like to see prioritized at bit.ly/Blackpolicysurvey.

The Black Policy Agenda framework mirrors the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), which are the conditions in our environment that impact our health, functioning, and quality of life in our communities.

WE BELIEVE IN A WEST VIRGINIA THAT:



Ensures **economic** dignity and opportunity for all through

- **Creation of a state Child Tax Credit** to increase economic security for families with children
- **A Small Business and Minority Populations Economic and Workforce Development Task Force** to empower small businesses and promote economic opportunities for minorities
- **Tax Credits for Diversity and Inclusion** to incentivize businesses to hire, promote, and develop women and minorities into leadership roles
- **Passage of the CROWN Act** which makes it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture or style
- **Reparations** to West Virginia's African American population



Invests in an equitable and **well-funded public education** system through

- **A Youth Advisory Council for Civic Engagement** to encourage civic engagement among young people
- **Increased access to high-quality early childhood education** in all communities
- **School suspension disparities among Black students are eliminated** through restorative practices, increased access to diverse educators, and investments in student support service

WE BELIEVE IN A WEST VIRGINIA THAT:



Shrinks the **criminal legal system** through

- **Reductions in the number of West Virginians incarcerated** in prisons and jails
- **Second Look Sentencing** to allow those with lengthy sentences to petition for reconsideration after serving a significant portion of their time
- **Reducing technical parole and probation violations** that drive overcrowded jail conditions
- **Ending the privatization of jail and prison services** that increases the financial burden on loved ones of incarcerated people
- **Investments in the reentry supports needed for those leaving the justice system to succeed** including affordable housing, access to health care, and jobs



Builds healthy communities, **housing,** and **environment** through

- **Giving all West Virginians access to clean drinking water**
- **Creation of a WV Community Development Equity Fund** to support equitable community development projects
- **Dilapidated Property Assessments** investing in and marking dilapidated properties



Prioritizes the **health** of its people through

- **School-based mental health supports and substance use treatment** to increase access to supports for young people
- **Enactment of West Virginia Bridge Plan** to maximize available federal dollars by instituting a Basic Health Plan option that builds on WV Medicaid's administrative and provider networks
- **Improving Black Infant and Maternal Health** through improved data collection and increasing access to culturally-appropriate care
- **Establishment of a Minority Health Advisory Team** to improve Black health and well-being
- **Protects and expands access to Medicaid and CHIP**



Has abundant **food** security through

- **A Food Desert Produce Pilot Program** to increase access to quality, accessible, affordable food in food deserts
- **Supports for Black farmers and growers**