

Black Political Caucus of Cabarrus County

SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

According to The Southern Poverty Law Center, there are about 7 million people incarcerated on any given day in the U.S. The NAACP says that Blacks are sentenced at 5 times the rate of whites. The challenges of disparities in sentencing and juveniles being sentenced as adults are amongst the causes that's kept this as a defining issue for generations.

BPC is including the concern of police violence to this category and has chosen it as our premier social issue for 2020. Our focus will include:

- Understanding and sharing the existing policies of our local law enforcement with the community
- Exploring and lobbying for additional preventative policy
- Cultivating productive relationships with local law enforcement departments
- Support candidates with positions aligning with that of the BPC

VOTING RIGHTS AND VOTER PROTECTION:

North Carolina has had a rash of what the ACLU calls voter suppression laws. Some of these laws legalized or have led to the elimination of same-day registration, elimination of early voting days, and gerrymandering. This equates disenfranchisement and lessens the diversity in the ideals and demographics of our elected officials.

The BPC has adopted this as its secondary issue of focus for the 2020 year to counteract further threat to North Carolina's democracy.

Source: <https://www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/en/news/block-vote-voter-suppression-2020>

EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY:

Re-segregation and decreased funding have handicapped both our school systems and children. Inequities cause racial gaps in achievement, graduation, dropout, grade point averages and standardized test scores. BPC advocates for increased spending and equitable allocation of resources.

SOCIAL INEQUALITY & THE ENVIRONMENT:

Environmental change is an issue for this entire generation; however, social inequality leads to more dire consequences for people of color and the poor. People of color and economically poorer people are affected more by changing weather patterns and are more likely to live near damaging industries and polluted water sources.

BPC considers the science of climate change legitimate and supports candidates who acknowledge the same.

Read more about it here: <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-justice-all/people-color-are-front-lines-climate-crisis>

POVERTY REDUCTION & BUDGET ALLOCATION:

The Independent Tribune reported that more than 540 school students were homeless at some point during the 2018-19 school year. In 2018 the average number of evictions in Cabarrus County were 102 per month. Tackling poverty in our county is to advocate for fair resource allocations for school, healthcare, and other social services.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

In our state there is an existing fight for workers particularly by the North Carolina Justice Center. Focus is on solutions such as increased wages and benefits, and work family policies with the expectation of an increase of quality of life.

HEALTHCARE:

Reports of the disproportionate rates of cases and deaths of Black Americans during the Covid-19 crisis is a distinct illustration of what has been known for some time: a lack of affordable healthcare access will and does lead to loss of life. Other relevant health topics for our community include breast cancer rates, infant mortality, heart disease, obesity rates, and the growing effect of the opioid crisis.