
Illinois General Assembly

RACIAL JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WORKERS CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
CENTER FOR RACIAL & GENDER EQUITY

PRISON DIVESTMENT

Reverse mass incarceration and restore opportunity to residents impacted by the prison system

- Enact comprehensive sentencing reform, including the elimination of mandatory minimums, reduction in sentencing maximums and implementation of sentencing caps
- Prohibit the practice of punitive solitary confinement statewide
- Abolish the money bail system statewide and restrict the practice of pretrial detention to a highly selective, racially neutral category of exceptional risk circumstances
- Ban the use of community based electronic monitoring for individuals who have served their full prison term
- Prohibit the state from entering into or renewing contracts with for-profit entities for community-based correction services, including electronic monitoring, parole supervision and rehabilitation programs
- Pass the SAFER Communities Initiative to divest public dollars away from the prison system and equitably invest in living wage employment for job seekers returning from incarceration
- Amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to include anti-discrimination protections for employment, education and housing applicants with conviction histories
- Improve the conviction record expungement and sealing processes by decreasing waiting periods and by making record sealing fee waivers permanent and extending their applicability
- Remove unnecessary barriers to professional licensing for applicants with conviction histories

POLICE REFORM

Dismantle systems of racialized police violence and hold officers accountable for wrongdoing

- Prohibit any measure in a police union collective bargaining agreement that limits a police department's ability to investigate misconduct allegations against an officer
- Require municipalities with a population exceeding one million to establish a democratically elected police board, authorized to hire leadership, set policy and oversee investigations of alleged officer misconduct
- Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits the act of racial profiling by state and local police and offers civil protections to individuals who are subject to race based targeting by law enforcement
- Abolish the unconstitutional and racially targeted practice of civil asset forfeiture

WORKERS RIGHTS

Ensure living wage jobs and labor protections for all Illinois workers

- Extend the increase in Illinois minimum wage to \$15/hour to tipped employees and younger workers
- Pass legislation that mandates equal compensation for temporary employees and requires temporary staffing agencies to offer regular, predetermined schedules to its workforce
- Authorize the Illinois Department of Labor to enforce more stringent consequences for employers who commit wage theft against workers, including a property lien on wages owed
- Enact legislation that would require Illinois employers to provide regular and seasonal employees with paid sick leave

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Invest in safety net services for low and moderate income households

- Ensure Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) access for all low and moderate income families, by raising income eligibility requirements to 400% of the federal poverty line
- Increase grant amounts for TANF family assistance benefits

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Secure ballot access and develop mechanisms of direct democracy for all Illinoisans

- Initiate an amendment to the state constitution that would extend voting rights to incarcerated citizens
- Abolish Illinois' racially discriminatory prison gerrymandering system
- Establish a publicly financed small donor matching system for candidates running for statewide office
- Implement a Rank Choice Voting system for elections for statewide office
- Repeal legislation that bars individuals with felony conviction records from holding municipal office