

# CALIFORNIA



## Poor People's Campaign

### A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

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*Whether or not you rallied to Sacramento or joined our voter information webinar last weekend, you'll want to check out our recaps of the lively and enriching events below. But first, we've got three ways you can boost voter turnout in the crucial—and imminent—midterm elections.*

## Announcements



### Countdown to Election Day

With the midterm elections just a few weeks away, we can all help register, educate and mobilize our communities to vote—starting now. Here are three things you can do this week:

1. **Check your voter registration status.** If you've moved or changed your name, you may need to re-register. [Check your status now.](#)
2. **Organize a ballot breakdown party.** The ballot can be confusing! But we can bring together our neighbors and friends and use our collective wisdom to figure out how to cast votes that reflect our values. [Here's a handy guide](#) to help you get started.
3. **Join a national text bank.** The national PPC is focusing on 15 states to ramp up the turnout of low-income voters. Let's help our PPC siblings across the country. There are text banks every day of the week; [sign up here.](#)

**BLOCK PARTY**

REGISTER TO VOTE

KIDS ZONE

LOCAL DJ

FOOD TRUCK

**TOGETHER WE VOTE**

PACT

**October 22 ■ Saturday , 10-2 ■ FREE**  
**TOGETHER WE VOTE BLOCK PARTY**  
**EDUCARE CALIFORNIA OF SV**  
**1399 Santee Drive ■ San Jose**

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT PACT REV. SAMMIE EVANS 408-998-8001 SEVANS@PACTSJ.ORG

**This weekend, join the Together We Vote Block Party Saturday Oct. 22, 10am  
1399 Santee Drive, San Jose**

Save the date for a lively voter-registration event with a kid's zone, music, food and nonpartisan voter translators in Spanish and Vietnamese. All are invited to the safe familyfriendly space.

San Jose–based nonprofit PACT (People Acting in Community Together) hosts the gathering with co-sponsors Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet, Latina Coalition of SV, Asian Women Empowered, Lead Filipino, the California Poor People's Campaign and Catholic Charities of Silicon Valley.

“Let's flex our collective power,” said Rev. Alvin Herring, Faith in Action executive director. (PACT is the region's branch of FiA.) “As people of faith, it's not enough for us to preach the value of justice. We must act on it. Your vote is sacred. Your vote has power.”

To volunteer for PPC tabling, please contact Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, EPs ([revrowanf@gmail.com](mailto:revrowanf@gmail.com)). And check out [vote.org](http://vote.org) for all kinds of handy voter resources.

## Upcoming meetings

### Orange County Region monthly meeting

**Thursday Oct. 27, 7pm | [RSVP](#)**

Join us in planning and executing our next steps forward to the polls this fall and beyond. Can't join us for our monthly meeting? Stay up to date on the latest actions and announcements on our [Facebook group page](#).

## Recaps



### Californians rally in Sacramento for the PPC National Day of Action

Last Saturday, California joined 25 other states across the US to focus attention on the voting power of poor and low-income people. At noon in each time zone, marchers shouted, "If we ever needed to vote, we sure do need to vote now!"

California activists marched through the streets of Sacramento to the State Capitol, carrying colorful banners and signs. Participants included union members, community groups and students from Sacramento State. Faith leaders Omar Altamimi of the Council on AmericanIslamic Relations and Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, EPs set the tone for the day, offering opening and closing reflections—and reminding us of the role that people of faith are called to play in getting out the vote for democracy and justice.

People impacted by systemic racism and poverty were the event's [key speakers](#). Crystal Sanchez from the Sacramento Homeless Union described growing up in foster homes. "We were not taught about the importance of voting rights," she said. "Without our voices being at

the table and at the ballot box, decisions and choices are made for us and without us.” But, she continued, “The last voting cycle was the first time I voted, because I was educated by the Poor People’s Campaign on the importance of voting.”



Cesar Seabron, who is living with cerebral palsy and has relied on others to help him with daily living, spoke of the difference that caregivers have made in his life—not only providing basic necessities, but also allowing him to go out and participate in community life. But he didn’t just talk about himself. “My aides deserve much more,” he told the crowd. “It’s time to start paying our caregivers a living wage.”

This action was part of the PPC’s initiative to reach out to 5 million poor and low-wage people and low-propensity voters before the midterm elections. You can watch a roundup of the day’s actions [here](#).

(Photos by Dan Bacher)

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## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it’s time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country’s distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

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### **Insights and energy from the CA Voter Information Webinar**

A webinar held by the California PPC last Sunday highlighted the need for mobilization of the poor and their unity as the 2022 midterm elections approach. While the webinar focused mainly on California concerns, there were participants from other states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia who contributed their enthusiasm and experience.

Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Transformative Justice Project, reminded us that while we tend to focus on presidential elections, decisions made in the midterms—such as the wave of voter suppression laws that were passed in states after the 2010 midterms—have long-term effects. And she outlined how unrepresentative our elected officials can be, noting that there are almost no state legislators under the age of 40, even though that cohort makes up the largest bloc of eligible voters.

“Can you imagine if 50 percent of state legislators were between the ages of 18 and 40?” she asked. “Would we see what we’re seeing now?” She added that most state legislators are over 60, white and male, and that some state legislatures have no people of color at all.

Rev. Theoharis, national PPC co-chair, urged us to continue to build a movement that votes.

“We know we have the power to transform this society from the bottom up,” she said. Citing the ugly role that white Christian nationalism is playing in politics, she drew on the words of legendary activist Fannie Lou Hamer: “You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not gonna put it in your lap.”

A recent scandal in Los Angeles, where Latino officeholders were caught making racist comments against Black and Indigenous people, led L.A. activist Trini Rodriguez to observe that it was important not only to elect Latinos, but to be sure that we elect Latinos who are in solidarity with all the poor.

In Staci Collins’s spirited call to action, she urged participants to hold ballot parties where people can discuss and better understand the candidates and issues they will face on the ballot. These events, which can be held in a given community or for a wider audience, serve to build community as people study the issues together, and encourage more informed voting.

Alan Minsky, executive director of Progressives for Democracy and lifelong activist and journalist, summed up the messages of the day this way: “No person of conscience should sit out this election!”

The webinar sparked much enthusiasm for making the most of our opportunity to vote. And participants made generous pledges, so that the event was an all-around success in mobilizing and preparing us for the coming election. If you missed it, we urge you to [watch it!](#)

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*