

Thu, Aug 29, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- GOTV resource fair this weekend
- An immigrant rights forum in the San Fernando Valley
- Bishop Barber on swing votes and racist tropes

Announcements

This weekend: Join PPC Bay Area activists for a GOTV art build & song circle

Sat August 31, 12:30–3:30pm | [Details](#)
BFUU Fellowship Hall

Come learn about the California Poor People's Campaign GOTV work: Join local activists in a rousing resource fair that will include an art build and song circle.

The event will be held at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (BFUU) Fellowship Hall, located at [1924 Cedar St](#) in Berkeley, near AC Transit lines 79 and 18 and the North Berkeley BART.

Not in the Bay Area but eager to start mobilizing voters?

Join our statewide GOTV efforts!

We are mobilizing 15 million poor and low-wage workers and people to the polls this November. You can be part of it. [Sign up here.](#)

Are you ready to vote? [Visit Vote.org](#) to check your registration, register to vote, request an absentee ballot, find out what's on your ballot and get election reminders to make sure you're where you need to be on Election Day.

Recap



Immigrant Rights Forum: a discussion on the power of voting

The California PPC's San Fernando Valley region hosted an Immigrant Rights Forum on August 24 at a Pacoima elementary school to address pressing issues facing the

undocumented community. Some 45 Spanish-speaking activists, legal experts and community members discussed the power of electoral engagement to change policies; other pivotal topics included legal status, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), President Biden's [executive immigration order](#) and Project 2025—policies that directly affect millions of lives.

Legal status is a critical concern for undocumented individuals. Participants emphasized the need for comprehensive immigration reform that offers pathways to citizenship and protections against deportation. Discussions about DACA recognized its role as a temporary solution that leaves Dreamers in uncertainty. The threat of Project 2025 underscored the urgency of united action to ensure that migrant voices are heard and actively shape future policy directions. The forum highlighted how current policies often leave individuals in precarious situations, vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination.

Throughout the forum, the importance of GOTV efforts among poor and low-income infrequent voters was emphasized, along with a reminder of the power held by immigrant communities as potential swing voters. By asserting our rights and demanding equitable treatment, we can influence political landscapes significantly. Our collective voice raised during this event is essential in advocating for inclusive, humane policies and dignity for all immigrants that reflect our shared values of justice and equality.

Meeting

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Sep 8, 3pm | [Online](#)

Heads up Angelenos! Instead of meeting this Sunday (Labor Day weekend), we're meeting the following week. Join us to learn about our local actions as part of the first national PPC canvassing weekend (September 13–15) and how you can be involved. We'll also have updates on ways to get out the vote in swing states. Invite your neighbors, family and friends—all are welcome!

News

Moral Mondays Season of Prayer continues at the Supreme Court

A coalition of clergy from various traditions gathered in front of the U.S. Supreme Court to hold the second [prayer vigil and press conference](#) for the Moral Mondays Season of Prayer. This series calls the nation to put prayers into action for democracy, justice, voting rights and to conduct the ongoing presidential campaign in a manner rooted in truth, love and equity. Clergy will reinforce intentions set during the first Moral Monday in July for the 2024 election cycle, with two more Moral Mondays to follow on September 30 and October 28.

We are the swing vote! Join our GOTV team!

"It was Roosevelt, a Republican, who first said that we ought to have a moral agenda. That moral agenda ought to include health care, a minimum living wage and taking care

of the environment. Eisenhower, another Republican, said we ought to put more investment in public education and to be leery of the military industrial complex that would soak up money from the people that actually need it in the country.... A moral agenda isn't political or partisan. It just isn't." —Bishop Barber

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JOIN US

In the media



Bishop Barber confronts “racist tropes” in MSNBC interview

Exposing the decades-long racist lies of politicians who characterize Black people as poor and lazy, Bishop Barber spoke with Ali Velshi on [MSNBC](#) about how he and the PPC are working to break the cycle of low voter turnout. “If we say no to the racist tropes sowing division, we will be the largest swing vote in the nation,” he said.

“Poor and low-wage people now make up 30 percent of the electorate in every state. In so-called battleground states, they make up over 40 percent. If just 5 to 10 percent of those who are infrequent voters were to vote, they could determine election outcomes in every battleground state.”

A visit to Democracy House

Watch this [short video](#) from Bishop Barber’s stop at Democracy House, a Chicago-based discussion forum that aims to “provide leaders, policy makers, activists, elected officials and others a venue to discuss, and craft new ideas for the movement’s collective vision for democracy,” and his response to two questions on the swing vote.

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.
