

Thu, Sep 12, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- National Canvassing Weekend details
- Rev. Liz on the real homelessness crisis ▪
- Bishop Barber on living wages

Announcements



Join us and reach voters in your community!

[Email us to get involved](#)

One of the most crucial elections in American history is less than two months away, and it's not just the presidential candidates who are on the ballot: Control of state houses, city councils and much more are at stake. We need to show up at the polls to win living wages, health care for all, guaranteed voting rights and a livable planet.

But we can't win without making the voices of poor and low-wage people heard. For too long, those in power have ignored the needs of the least of us, preferring to cater to the wealthy and well-connected.

When we talk to poor and low-income voters, the number one reason they give us for why they don't vote is that nobody speaks to them. That's why we're working to mobilize at least 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters across the country ahead of this year's elections.

When poor and low-wage people go to the ballot box and make their voices heard, those in power will be forced to listen.

Read on and find out how to get involved.

1st nationally coordinated weekend of canvassing September 13–15

Canvassing activities are being kicked off this weekend, and events are being planned throughout the state, with a focus on sharing nationally-prepared nonpartisan materials in our communities. (Temperatures around the state are expected to be much lower than they were last weekend. *Phew.*)

Do you have time to volunteer? [Contact us](#) to find events near you and get materials.

National Virtual Presidential Town Hall Monday September 23, 5:30–7pm ET

Presidential candidates have been invited. Stay tuned for details.

Are you ready to vote?

[Visit Vote.org](https://www.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.

Meetings & events

Statewide meeting

GOTV efforts to reach our unhoused and homeless neighbors

Wednesday Sep. 18, 6:30pm | [Online](#)

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Grants Pass* decision, cities across the state have stepped up sweeps of encampments and harassment of people who are unhoused.

In addition to being cruel, this is a form of voter suppression, making it more difficult for unhoused people to get ballots and know where to vote. You can help! Join us to learn effective strategies for getting out the vote among those who are homeless and unhoused, including voter registration tips, working with local county registrars and new outreach materials.

In our subsequent statewide meeting, tentatively set for September 25, we will discuss further outreach actions to reach low-income, low-propensity voters.

We are the swing vote! Join our GOTV team!



Poor and low-income people are the largest swing vote, and together we can reconstruct American democracy. Those who have been rejected in this world can lead the revival of love, justice and mercy, which we so desperately need.

We are mobilizing 15 million poor and low-wage workers and people to the polls this November. You can be part of this effort.

SIGN UP



PPC in the media

“Poor People’s Campaign and clergy gathering combats voter suppression”

Bringing together clergy from around the U.S., Caitlin Swain (pictured above), North Carolina voting rights attorney and co-director of Forward Justice, joined Bishop Barber for a strategy session on mobilizing low-income people to vote. As an article in [People’s World](#) highlights, the conversation touched on the importance of protecting voters against intimidation, disinformation and voter-suppression efforts.

In his introduction, Bishop Barber spoke of the PPC work underway and the significance of the low-wealth electorate. He concluded by saying, “We need to speak truth to power. We must tackle all forms of oppression together.” Swain covered the erosion of voting rights in recent years: “We have been laboratories for racial oppression and authoritarianism for decades, and we’ve had a particular backlash for the last 11 years.” She also pointed out that voters around the country “face restrictions [that were] not in place” in 2020.

“Where Can We Live?” The Homeless Crisis in America

In an opinion piece in [TomDispatch](#), Cedar Monroe, author of *Trash: A Poor White Journey*, and our own Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis write about the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* ruling and its cruel consequences on unhoused individuals across the nation.

They share the long history of our country’s forced displacement of people and the carelessness of the majority ruling. “In the end, the Supreme Court’s ruling proved shortsighted indeed,” they write. “While it gave the cities of the West Coast what they thought they wanted, neither the court nor those cities are really planning for the repercussions of millions of people being forced from place to place. The magical thinking exhibited by Grants Pass officials—that people will just go down the road and essentially disappear—ignores the reality that the next city in line would prefer the same.”

“Is ‘No tax on tips’ a distraction from the fight to end sub-minimum wages?”

As part of a [Guardian](#) feature on the recent political attention to potentially banning taxes on tips, Bishop Barber highlighted the critical importance of living wages—and the differences between the candidates’ positions. Other voices included researchers, poverty advocates and culinary union activists.

Bishop Barber shared his view along with a link to the piece on social media: “The policy of sub-minimum wage is a way of institutionalizing low wages. The people forced to work those jobs that we call essential end up being economically rejected and treated like they’re expendable.”

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