

Thu, Oct 24, 2024

CALIFORNIA



Good morning! In this issue...

- Three sermons for democracy
- GOTV resources
- National rally and Bay Area GOTV recaps
- Rev. Theoharis on "a hurricane of misinformation"
- Bishop Barber on the minimum wage

Announcements



We Know What We Must Do and Why We Must Do It

National sermons on what's at stake for faith and democracy

Repairers of the Breach is hosting three national sermons that will raise a prophetic voice to the nation, calling attention to what is at stake for both our faith and our democracy in this critical election. Titled “We Know What We Must Do and Why We Must Do It,” these sermons are not just opportunities for political discourse; they are declarations of the deep moral and spiritual implications of this election. These faith leaders embody a sacred duty to speak truth to power, defend the oppressed and inspire our communities to vote with compassion, justice and love.

Dates and Locations

Oct. 27 at Riverside Church in New York, 7am PT | [RSVP](#)

Nov. 3 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., 8am PT | [RSVP](#)

Nov. 3 at Union Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, 4pm PT | [RSVP](#)

Whether you attend in person or view online, we hope that you will be part of this critical moment.

Text banking: 2 weeks to go!

PPC volunteers from across the country are busy texting voters in swing states. Want to be part of this national effort? [Sign up here.](#)

PPC resources for your GOTV efforts

Our [PPC GOTV flyers](#) are available in English and Spanish and can be used by all of us, for tabling at events, for door-to-door canvassing, to share with libraries, senior centers, congregations—in other words, anywhere in your community where low-income voters will see them. Be creative!

- **Presidential candidate scorecard** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)): A nonpartisan, thoroughly fact-checked flyer showing where the presidential candidates stand on issues that matter most to our community. Remember: Our campaign is not about left or right; it's about right and wrong!
- **Voting information**: A flyer to help people check their voter registration status, register to vote and get information about polling places and early voting; includes

voter hotline numbers, 866-OUR-VOTE. (Note: This flyer is located beneath the [presidential scorecard](#). The two documents can be printed front-to-back.)

- **Remember You Can Vote (English | Spanish)**: A flyer specifically for California to reinforce the rights of our unhoused neighbors and formerly incarcerated people to vote.
- **Voter Protection Poster**: A bold, colorful flyer to display as a poster in public places, listing hotline protection numbers in various languages.

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 know about early voting options as well as where to vote on Election Day.

If you're registered to vote, you should have received your CA Voter Guide and ballot in the mail. If you haven't, now is the time to [check your registration](#).

Meetings & events

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Nov. 3, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Angelenos, join us on the Sunday before Election Day to be in community and ground ourselves for the days ahead. We'll share stories, videos and music as well as lastminute actions you can take to get out the vote. Invite your neighbors, family and friends —all are welcome!

Recaps



National Virtual GOTV Rally turns contemplation into action

On Monday, the Poor People's Campaign hosted a National Virtual GOTV rally to mobilize and inspire poor and low-wage voters, a critical swing vote. We heard from PPC Co-Chairs Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, faith leaders and impacted community members. If you missed it, watch the [livestream](#) to learn about GOTV efforts, access voting resources and take action to protect your vote.

After a rousing song that opened the rally, Bishop Barber thanked so many for their work and encouraged everyone to keep up the GOTV actions. He shared a passage from the

book *American Prophets* about the giant triplet evils of racism, excess materialism and militarism and how we must do more than just contemplate change. “We can’t just sit down and have great thoughts about what should be changed and write about what needs to be changed, but do nothing to change it,” he said. “Action is required in identification with, in solidarity with and in presence with the poor and oppressed.”

Impacted PPC activists from across the country rallied together to encourage everyone to register if they hadn’t already, as deadlines to register in some states are nearing, and to get out and vote, and have conversations with others to do so. Pam Garrison, Tri-Chair from West Virginia, spoke about critical policy changes needed for poor people: “I believe in us, the marginalized, the low-income, the swing voters! We are making our voices heard.”

Watch the PPC national virtual GOTV rally [livestream](#).

We are the swing vote! Join our GOTV team!

“In 1868, J.W. Hood demanded three rights: the right to sit in a jury box, a witness box, and to cast a ballot in the ballot box. He faced threats but stood firm. Today, we have more resources—let’s honor his courage by showing up at the ballot box!” —Bishop Barber



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

SIGN UP



Bay Area PPC GOTV activists spread the word

Bay Area activists were busy this past weekend! A group visited the Melvin Dixon Memorial Free Produce Stand in North Oakland on Sunday, joining with Wood Street Commons organizers who were delivering basic needs support for the Self-Help Hunger Program run by Auntie Frances Moore.

A handful of people dropping by the produce stand, though initially skeptical of whether voting can make a difference, went on to share their views on issues impacting their families and community, such as forced labor in prisons, immigration justice and the safety of artificial intelligence. Most were not aware that people can vote regardless of whether they have a permanent place to live or whether they are on parole or probation. Some were surprised that the Alameda County government had not made it more widely known that a resident can request mobile voting (voting that comes to where the voter is) if they are disabled. The activists shared flyers providing information about voting eligibility and mobile voting, asking the people they met to spread the word, too.

In another effort, Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists joined with PPC GOTV activists to deliver voter engagement information to partners and community sites including the library in West Oakland. Their goal: to reach those least likely to vote in the hugely important election of 2024—poor people, the unhoused and low-propensity voters.



Also, the Saha housing complex on the edge of Oakland's Chinatown was the site of a ballot breakdown discussion focused mostly on the mechanics of voting. Quad chair Nell Myhand shared PPC resources and the housing service coordinator offered nonpartisan one-on-one support for those interested. The group included a person voting for the first time as a U.S. citizen. All appreciated the knowledge shared.

In the media

“Billionaires Are Not Going to Save Us”

Rev. Theoharis dispels lies and exposes political misinformation in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in a powerful [TomDispatch](#) article. She writes of the intensity and inequities of the storm; of so many poor people who were living in the areas hit the hardest, who did not have flood insurance, and now may become homeless due to their inability to cover the costs of rebuilding.

And yet, there are many signs of hope from within these very communities. Rev. Theoharis reflects on historical community groups that were built from within, like the Black Panthers. “Indeed, contrary to media narratives that often paint hard-pressed communities as dangerous and their members as only looking out for themselves, the truth is that people in crisis usually do whatever they can to provide for their communities and protect those around them,” she writes. “Dispossessed people care for one another, share what they have, and lend a hand through mutual-aid networks. Such survival struggles may not be enough on their own, but provide fertile ground for deeper organizing among widely disparate American communities that, through the experience of increasingly common mass crisis events, are being awakened to the need for deeper, systemic change.”

Read this compelling opinion piece in [TomDispatch](#).

Bishop Barber on the importance of raising the minimum wage

Sharing a [video](#) in which VP Harris champions a higher minimum wage, Bishop Barber wrote, “39 million Americans work for poverty wages b/c the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hr hasn't been raised since 2009. 89% of Americans support raising the minimum wage. This is a winning message.”

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