



A New Deal for a New Reality

Relief, Recovery & Reform



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Executive Summary

Our new reality is driven by a global pandemic, disinformation campaigns, and political machinations that are destroying our democracy. The work of the Progressive Caucus of the NC Democratic Party (PCNCDP) is to support a New Deal for a New Reality; to ensure that government spending is driven by the needs of the people instead of corporations and special interests. In the COVID-19 era, and beyond, we need Medicare for All to provide healthcare to all, whether employed, unemployed or underemployed. We need a Green New Deal to restructure our economy, rebuild America, and support our people. Our goal is to achieve racial, social, and economic justice for the people of North Carolina and the country by fighting concentrations of economic and political power, and the laws, practices, and systems enabling them. We are modeling our efforts on the tenets of FDR's New Deal and his targets of Relief, Recovery, and Reform. We defined Relief tasks as happening immediately, Recovery tasks as coming in the near future, and Reform tasks as something which we begin working on now and come to fruition after Recovery.

The [Relief, Recovery and Reform programs](#), known as the 'Three Rs', were introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression and became known as the New Deal. In a series of laws and executive orders enacted between 1933 and 1938, these actions and reform programs focused on emergency relief programs, emergency employment in government programs, regulating and reforming the banks and the stock market, providing debt relief, increasing and stabilizing agricultural production and income, initiating industrial recovery and introducing public works construction projects. The 'Three Rs' programs of the New Deal put the United States on a democratic path out of the Great Depression.

Despite Roosevelt's best efforts to include African Americans in his recovery programs, Roosevelt felt he could not anger the Southern bigots, who were a major part of the Democratic coalition, so African Americans and other minority citizens were excluded from most of the Three Rs programs. We are fully determined that the benefits and assistance of these proposed reforms will be available to all Americans without distinctions.

Our democracy is slipping away, and it is up to all of us to elect public officials who will support our goals. We have the collective power to achieve justice and equality by running for office, supporting fair elections and progressive Democratic candidates, and by making sure that elected officials, policy makers, media and the public are continually hearing the strong and proud Progressive voices.

As Roosevelt said, ***"the country needs bold, persistent experimentation ...above all, try something"***.

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Civil Rights/Liberties

Americans, especially the poor, ethnic and racial minorities, the disabled, elders, non-Christians, immigrants, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and women, are losing our rights and liberties. Bias, discrimination and hate crimes must be stopped, and civil liberties and equal protection must be restored and enhanced.

Economy and Employment

The crises created by COVID19 have shown clearly that the policies of deindustrialization and government austerity have destroyed the ability of our society to respond effectively and equitably to national catastrophes and challenges. We must immediately provide medical testing and treatment to every person who needs it, especially for essential workers. Providing a basic income, without means or employment testing, will help keep our economy alive into a recovery phase. When we begin to rebuild our economy and industrial base it should be with the goal of finally fulfilling President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear. We believe that implementing a Green New Deal is the best way to create tens of millions of new and well paying jobs, return Wall Street to its proper role of supporting Main Street, and end our dependence on fossil fuels. We must build a future for which our children and grandchildren will thank us.

Education

Schools are the backbone of our society, and the federal government should supply adequate funding to states to support schools and the changes needed to cope with the current pandemic. Money allocated by the taxpayers should not go to line the pockets of the wealthy and/or encourage charter school fraud. NC charter schools have lower accountability standards than public schools, and provide false narratives when suggesting that they have the same or better outcomes as public schools. Charter schools and voucher programs drain resources from public schools, re-segregate schools, exclude minorities and high-cost or challenged students and are only required to have 50% of their teachers certified. Charter and private schools are not required to follow and be held accountable to NC state-required curriculum standards to the same degree as traditional public schools. These efforts have resulted in lower standing for public education and lower student performance over the years.

Electoral Reform/Voter Suppression

COVID-19 will make it unsafe and unwise for many voters, especially people in high-risk groups, to congregate for in-person voter registration and voting. North Carolina allows no-excuse absentee voting, but requires printing and mailing (or emailing) ballot requests, having a witness sign the ballot, and providing return postage. County-funded election boards, especially in rural areas, will be unable to afford to satisfy demand for absentee ballots and postage. The solution is immediate funding and implementation of no-excuse, free, no-witness mail-in voting across North Carolina based on the successful experience of Washington, Oregon, and other states. We must start immediately to be ready for the November election.

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Elders and the Disabled

Many North Carolinians suffer discrimination and lack of support due to age or disability- and many of these are persons of color and/or living in poverty. [Twenty-seven percent of NC residents have a disability](#) and by 2025, [20% of our state will be 65 and older](#). In the workplace, elders and the disabled, including veterans with service-related injuries, must be given equal opportunities and accommodation to be valuable members of the workforce. Caregivers, including family caregivers, must be paid fairly. Professional caregivers must be trained comprehensively. Medicare/Medicaid must cover all expenses and be accessible, and include mental health, vision, hearing and dental needs. In order to thrive, our elders and disabled must be empowered, as well as protected from abuse, neglect and discrimination, and treated with compassion and respect.

Foreign & International Affairs

This pandemic clearly demonstrates that what happens in one country can powerfully affect the lives of people in another. We must resist the desire to turn inward and focus only on our own problems, or try to shift blame outwards. While resisting isolationists, we also need to recognize that US security has been weakened, not strengthened, by projecting US military force abroad and US covert and direct interventions. We need to restore the power of international law by ensuring it favors national sovereignty over the demands and profits of global corporations, and any single or bloc of hegemonic powers.

We need a new era of international relations based on all the world's nations cooperating to reduce military spending, eliminating all nuclear weapons and shifting their economies to a post-fossil fuel standard of renewable energy and sustainable industry and agriculture. We must come together as global citizens to end human rights abuses everywhere that they occur. Global trade and economics must be shifted from exploiting unprotected labor to produce cheap consumer goods to national economic development that ensures all nations' populations have dependable electricity, clean water, sanitation, and public transportation. We want to replace the escalating conflicts over fixed amounts of resources with a Global Green New Deal that requires investing tens of trillions of dollars and hundreds of millions of new jobs to create new wealth based on new science and technology that expands the scope of resources and makes their use more efficient and sustainable.

Government Integrity

We must restore faith in government. "The public's ire is focused on the electoral system in the U.S. and on Congress — and the way members of the Senate and House do their jobs. About three-quarters (74%) say elected officials don't ["care what people like me think"](#) and ["put their own interests first."](#) We support ending the corrosive role of money in politics. We support holding special interests accountable, ending the revolving door between the private sector and public service, and public financing for federal and state elections. And because we do not believe corporations are people, we support a constitutional amendment to overturn the wrongly-decided [Citizens United](#).

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Health Care

The current pandemic has laid bare the ugly truth about our for-profit health care system in America — that we have health care for those who can afford it, poor or no care for those who can't, and unequal care for people of color and the LGBTQ communities. This disparity has been here all along; it's just more noticeable now that people are dying quickly and in large numbers from inadequate health care. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected America's poor, and people of color. Insurance companies, Healthcare Industry CEOs and pharmaceutical companies reap billions while those at the bottom suffer. Those with employer-linked health care have lost their insurance with their jobs. Now is the time we must provide health care to all.

Housing Policy

The availability, quality, cost, and location of housing matters to all Americans. This [2018 article](#), the first in a series addressing housing in the United States, sets out six goals housing policy should try to achieve—and three pitfalls to avoid. The [second article](#) explains why homeowners mostly win and renters mostly lose under current policy. To address the housing crisis of 2020, it's important to understand US housing policy more generally.

Immigration

Our national immigration system is broken. It is a disgrace to warehouse undocumented immigrants and those seeking asylum under harsh conditions in detention facilities. It is a disgrace to separate children from their families. It is also unconscionable to leave millions of immigrants in legal limbo without a clear, simple path to citizenship. We must enact the [Dream ACT](#) and the [New Way Forward Act](#).

Law Enforcement and Related Legal Reform: Re-Imagining Policing in America

“The more laws are written; the more criminals are produced.” – Lao Tzu

Policing has never been a neutral institution, applied equally to all. In the South, policing started with slave patrols in the 18th century and became the main tool to surveil Black people and prevent any collective resistance. In 19th century London, the model for NYC and Boston, the police were created to manage the effects of mass industrialization, particularly to put down strikes and riots, and to prevent industrial action. In NYC and Chicago, in addition to preventing labor unrest, professionalized departments enforced vice laws created to criminalize the activities of non-protestant immigrant communities (drinking, gambling, vagrancy, prostitution).

Piecemeal attempts at reform have never addressed the original purpose of policing but instead have tasked the police with creating a “kinder, gentler” police force — a social services mission that does not conform well with the original purpose of the police as an institution of state-sanctioned violence, legitimate or otherwise.

As a result, procedural reforms and training (better minority representation, de-escalation, implicit-bias, duty-to-intervene, etc) have proven mostly ineffective in solving the problem of

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police violence against black and brown people. The Obama Administration sank millions of dollars into the 21st Century Policing task force to provide these types of training to the Minneapolis Police Department so that the officers who murdered George Floyd had received some of the best training available to police anywhere in the country.

We see the call for police reforms—a call that goes back as far as the 1968 Kerner commission report—and are skeptical that technical and procedural reform alone will prove effective without addressing the structural and institutional problems in policing.

Science/Energy/Environment

Climate change is the existential problem of the 21st century. To slow climate change and recover from the Covid-19 crisis, we need substantial stimulus and job creation. We can put Americans back to work in well-paying jobs transforming our energy systems - jobs moving our electricity, transportation, industry and agriculture systems away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, energy efficiency and energy storage, and clean transportation. These will be the jobs of the 21st century to help us to a better shared future. Finally, we must restore the place of science in the forefront of US policy to its pre-2017 status, in all of its manifestations. In addition to policy recommendations listed here, more detail and more needed policies are contained [here](#) and [here](#).

Systemic Racism

We need an understanding of the discrimination that Blacks have suffered throughout the past 400 years, from slavery to today's police violence, mass incarceration, economic, environmental and racial discrimination, access to and quality of health care, wealth suppression and voter suppression. No matter how much those who have benefitted from preserving systemic racism and white privilege try to outlaw, ignore and distract us, racial inequality has reared its head and is not going away. The time has come to fix it, and to guarantee equality for ALL people of color.

Taxation

Both North Carolina and the Federal government have been shifting more of the tax burden onto individuals and lightening or eliminating the burden on corporations: More than half ([53%](#)) of North Carolina and [half](#) of Federal Tax revenue comes from individual income tax, with only 6.4% of NC and 6% of Federal revenue coming from corporations. The NC income tax is regressive because it is a flat-rate tax with many deductions that only benefit higher income earners. Additionally, 31% of NC revenue comes from sales and use taxes and 35% of Federal revenue comes from payroll taxes, both highly regressive taxes. Much local funding comes from property taxes, also regressive. The changes to the NC tax system instituted by the legislature since 2013 need to be reversed to move toward a fairer income tax distribution. Likewise, at the Federal level, the misleadingly-named "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017" provided massive tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations and minor tax cuts or even increases to lower-income individuals. We must undo most of the changes from TCJA, and reduce and eliminate the many tax breaks for the wealthy in the Federal tax system.

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Women & Families

In North Carolina and across the United States women, and especially women of color, confront workplace discrimination, health care inequities, lack of reproductive care, disparate rates of poverty, and sexual and domestic violence. Anti-discrimination laws are not uniform or comprehensive, and federal anti-discrimination laws can be repealed or overturned. Single-parent families, regardless of the family make-up, face difficult choices. They need quality child care and family leave policies that address challenges faced by all caregivers.

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Civil Rights / Liberties

Relief

- Protect prison staff and inmates and relieve overcrowding by providing early release for those with remaining sentences for minor convictions of less than 3 years and those with marijuana and other minor convictions
- Provide benefits to all Americans with these Relief, Recovery and Reform efforts and benefits for all individuals
- Encourage COVID-19 essential workers to speak freely and choose to wear personal protection equipment without losing their jobs
- Restore the press pool conventions to White House briefings

Recovery

- Continue to ensure due process during times of emergency or disaster
- Continue to provide sufficient staffing, therapeutic interventions and skills training in prisons during times of emergency or disaster
- Allow [civil disobedience assembly](#), and prosecute civilian and police violations accordingly

Reform

- [Legalize marijuana](#) and permanently expunge all marijuana convictions
- End the [school-to-prison pipeline](#) and reduce [mass incarceration](#)
- Provide Adverse Childhood Experiences ([ACE](#)) therapy for all inmates
- Prosecute religious discrimination and white supremacy as [domestic terrorism](#)
- Require social media platforms to filter out lies and to not accept political advertising
- Reinstate the [Fairness Doctrine](#)
- Promote and enforce the [Society of Professional Journalists \(SPJ\) Code of Ethics](#)
- Reform the criminal justice system and eliminate [for-profit prisons](#)
- Reform the [cash bail](#) system
- Pass legislation to end systematic racism and enforce current racial discrimination laws
- Eliminate [immigrant concentration camps](#)
- End [Redlining](#) for mortgages
- Reinstate non-partisan judicial elections
- Provide [reparations to African Americans in recognition of the cruel legacy of slavery](#)
- Redress the accumulation of family wealth over generations that was denied to non-Whites who were systematically excluded from the benefits of the GI Bill

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Economy and Employment

Relief

- Federal [Paycheck guarantee](#) for workers and [recurring direct cash payments](#) to individuals to cover [moratoria](#) on [rent, mortgage](#), credit cards, medical debt, [student debt](#), [evictions](#)
- Immediate and flexible federal funding of [\\$2 trillion for state, county, city and other local governments](#) (\$1 tn immediate needs, plus \$1 tn pre-approved reserve) - [Read More](#)
- Provide immediate [emergency funding](#) and ongoing support of the US Postal Service
- [Increase monthly Social Security benefits by at least \\$200](#)
- Eliminate or suspend all [means testing](#) and “looking for work” requirements for unemployment and emergency benefits, especially [COVID19 testing and care](#)
- Mandate [hazard pay](#) and emergency safety standards for essential workers

Recovery

- Reverse Republicans’ 2013 dismantling of unemployment insurance in North Carolina [Read More](#)
- Create a new federally funded [public job corps](#) that pays a living wage
- Raise the Minimum Wage to \$15/hour and then tie it to living wage and/or inflation automatically

Reform

- Reform [Wall Street](#) and the banking, financial and monetary systems - [Read More](#)
- [Tax](#) all financial market transactions
- Pass legislation allowing states and communities to establish [public banks](#)
- [Increase financial inclusion](#) by recreating a [postal banking system](#) (which existed from 1911 to 1967), allowing citizens to open small savings accounts at local post offices
- Dismantle [private equity](#)
- Pass legislation to facilitate [labor organizing](#) and collective bargaining
- Adopt the [Poor People's Campaign's](#) social goal of eliminating poverty
- [Set minimum monthly](#) Social Security benefit at [125 percent of the federal poverty line](#)
- Adopt a [national living wage](#) and set to automatically adjust for inflation
- Provide national basic income based on [actual cost of living by area](#)
- Re-establish enforcement of [antitrust laws](#)
- Prohibit contract clauses that require [private arbitration](#)
- [Reform](#) patent and copyright protections
- Replace [Gross Domestic Product](#) with a better measure of [economic well being](#).
- Fix the nation’s [crumbling infrastructure](#)
- Provide [full coverage](#) of college education for all
- Create [employment recovery](#) and training programs - [Read more](#)

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Education

Relief

- Provide funding to expand broadband Internet services and student access to hotspots and technology devices
- Fund emergency childcare services for “essential” workers such as teachers
- Provide printed materials to students who don’t have the technology to learn from home until all students have the devices and technology for successful home learning
- Suspend teacher licensure renewal requirements this year
- Give local school districts more control over their school calendar as is possible
- Increase Pre-K slots this year to cover all income-eligible children

Recovery

- NCGA fully fund public schools to provide access to equal education as mandated in the NC constitution and implement all of the recommendations of the [Leandro](#) report.
- Fully fund or delay class size requirement mandate
- Fully fund fair pay for teachers to be competitive with other careers that have similar educational requirements, implement step increases as per contracts, and pay all support staff a living wage
- Implement [Universal Preschool](#)
- Reinstate Masters, Board Certified pay, and continuing education support for teachers
- Fully or partially eliminate student debt for teachers
- Provide free Community College to all students
- Provide nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists at every school
- Create [flexible scheduling plans for school re-openings](#) with social distancing, including switching between in person and remote teaching as needed

Reform

- Eliminate [Voucher Programs \(Opportunity Scholarships\)](#)
 - Keep NC public funds for traditional public schools; repeal NC law allowing charter schools to use public funds
 - Permanently cap charter schools at 100, declining as charters close.
 - Raise all [charter school standards to match traditional public schools, including accountability and teacher qualification](#), as well as curriculum
 - Require charter schools to be 100% financially accountable and transparent, especially when being administered by a for-profit company
- [Read more](#)

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Elders and Disabled

Relief

- Expand Medicaid immediately for COVID testing and treatment
- Expand pool of available caregivers and home health workers
- Expand and fund meal programs such as [Meals on Wheels](#)
- Increase safety in congregant living sites by requiring masks for all staff, enforcing physical distancing, and enforcing strict hygiene protocols
- Screen staff and visitors for symptoms
- Test all staff and residents and quarantine as needed

Recovery

- In congregant living facilities, provide areas where residents can visit with family members
- Continue monitoring health of residents, staff and visitors
- Continue to implement safety and hygiene protocols
- Provide funding for extra pay and benefits for front line health care workers during risky and dangerous pandemics/outbreaks
- Provide comprehensive education and training for in-home and institution-based caregivers
- Ensure a living wage for professional caregivers and financial support for family caregivers
- Fully fund programs that provide meals to elders and disabled living at home

Reform

- Expand Medicare and raise income allowance for working elders or disabled people
- Incentivize employers to provide job training and employment opportunities
- Strengthen and enforce workplace discrimination laws and accommodations for [elders](#) and [disabled workers](#)
- Encourage elders to participate in mentorship and other volunteer programs to share their knowledge and experience
- [Ensure that elders and disabled voters have access to information and ballots and are able to exercise their rights to vote](#)

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Electoral Reform / Voter Suppression

Relief

- Prepare for large numbers of absentee voters in the November elections across the U.S.
- Provide Federal funding through upcoming COVID-19 relief bills to state election officials to meet greatly increased demand for absentee ballots, including expanding their capability to print, mail (at no cost to voters), and process such ballots.
- Encourage “no-excuse” absentee ballots across the nation, eliminating requirements that require interaction with other people

Recovery

- Provide state funding of NC elections to ensure that everyone across the state, even in counties with small county budgets, can vote without hardship
- Transition to a vote-by-mail system modeled on those in Washington State, Oregon, and other states.
- Restore the sections of the Voting Rights Act that were overturned by the Shelby vs. Holder Supreme Court decision
- Ensure that elder and disabled citizens have access to voter registration and the support they may need to vote, whether in person or by mail.
- NC should fund, staff, and promote [Multi-Partisan Assistance Teams](#).

Reform

- Permanently suspend voter ID requirements currently enjoined by the courts
- Institute a citizen-based redistricting commission to establish Congressional and State Legislature district boundaries to eliminate partisan bias and protect the rights of minorities
- Implement ranked-choice balloting for all primary elections and multi-seat local non-partisan elections.
- Abolish the Electoral College. Alternatively, but less desirably, sign on to the [National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#).

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Foreign & International Affairs

Relief

- Restore US funding of the WHO and other international health and recovery efforts
- Coordinate shipments of medical equipment and PPEs around the world
- Develop protocols for sharing scientific and epidemiological data

Recovery

- Repair relations with allies
- Develop protocols to share scientific data on pandemic and recovery with other nations
- Restore America's reputation by reaffirming the commitment of the USA to cooperate with other countries in international organizations designed to address and solve problems that transcend national boundaries, such as environmental protection, public health, migration, oceans and the Law of the Sea, and peaceful use of the polar regions and outer space
- Reinstate policies to oppose Human Rights violations around the world

Reform

- Rejoin the Paris Climate Accords
- Encourage international cooperation and collaboration to implement a Global Green New Deal
- Negotiate a new international regime of trade based on real economic development.
- Dismantle [investor-state dispute settlement](#) mechanisms, curtail the [power and influence of global corporations](#).
- Develop long range plans for international cooperation to identify and treat future pandemics and outbreaks
- Strongly encourage allies to develop peace accords and negotiations to end wars and conflicts; and encourage adoption or preservation of democracies.
- Refrain from military action to topple foreign governments
- Reduce the US military budget and US bases in foreign countries
- Prioritize international law to avoid wars
- Emphasize diplomatic action over military action
- Rebuild and support the professional diplomatic corps and foreign service

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Government Integrity

Relief

- Support impartial & ethical judicial candidates & nominees to state & federal courts

Recovery

- Legislate campaign finance reform in North Carolina
- Strengthen open records laws

Reform

Federal and State Campaign Reform:

- Amend the U.S. Constitution and overturn [Citizens United](#), the decision that cleared the way for corporations and other outside groups to spend unlimited funds on elections.
- Address [outside spending](#) regulations by Super PACS and dark money groups
- Broadening the definition of a “thing of value” in campaign finance laws to include non-monetary support; include opposition research from foreign governments
- Require the IRS to release eight years of tax returns for presidential and vice-presidential candidates; two years of returns for congressional candidates; and returns while in office
- Require public officials, including presidents and VPs, to sell stock holdings and businesses, or place them in a [qualified blind trust](#); strengthen QBT rules
- Apply conflict of interest laws to the President and Vice President; pass the [Presidential Conflict of Interest Act](#)
- Support and strengthen the STOP Act (Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act) by creating an independent U.S. Office of Public Integrity for enforcement
- [Expand coverage](#) of the 2012 STOP Act to incorporate individuals included when the Act was originally passed in 2012, thereby banning insider trading & owning individual stock by Congress, senior congressional staff, cabinet secretaries & White House staff; include criminal penalties for violations
- Enact the [Ban Conflicted Trading Act](#) to prevent Congress from trading individual stocks and holding positions on corporate boards
- Define “corporate lobbyists” to include lobbyists compensated by [501\(c\)\(6\)](#) organizations like chambers of commerce; require paid lobbyists to wait at least 5 years before taking government jobs; criminalize lobbying for foreign entities by United States citizens
- Legislate a lifetime lobbying ban for presidents, vice presidents, members of Congress, federal judges, and cabinet secretaries
- Ban “golden parachutes” for executives leaving corporate jobs for government jobs
- Reintroduce the “Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act”

For Judicial Reform [Read more](#)

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Health Care

Relief

- Support the [Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act](#), which would empower Medicare to pay all costs of treatment for the uninsured and all out-of-pocket costs for those with public or private insurance for the duration of the pandemic
- Immediately provide full federal funding for [testing](#), [contact tracing](#) and disinfection
- Immediately expand Medicaid in NC - [HB 1040](#) Healthcare for Working North Carolinians, and make COBRA affordable
- Use the Defense Production Act to produce and equitably distribute ventilators, Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices and supplies needed throughout the pandemic
- Fully fund meal programs for the homebound and those living in poverty
- Establish a moratorium on medical debt collections
- Cap the costs of prescription drugs
- Invest in social distancing - pay people to stay home to stop the spread of the disease
- Increase coverage of mental health services, including access to telemedicine
- End surprise billing

Recovery

- Fully fund and expand [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#)
- Forgive all medical debt
- Institute student loan forgiveness for doctors, nurses and other health care providers who will work in underserved areas & provide financial incentives to increase the number of doctors/nurses and other medical professionals of color
- [Expand access to dental care](#) in NC & address oral health concerns outlined in the [Surgeon General's Report: Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges](#)
- Expand funding for prevention and treatment of opioid addiction
- Prosecute pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies and physicians who prescribe opioids for profit
- Coordinate rotating mobilization of all 57 [National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams](#) (WMD-CST or CST) to assist local health agencies
- Implement [NC Faith Leadership COVID-19 Recovery Principles](#), including:
 - Provide paid sick time, paid family and medical leave, and protective occupational safety, and health standards for frontline workers.
 - Protect the lives of those incarcerated in State Prisons or detention centers

Reform

- Enact and implement “**Improved Medicare For All**” single-payer system that covers all people, for all medically necessary services (including dental, vision, hearing aids, mental health, and prescription drugs) funded by a progressive tax like the one outlined in [HR 1384- The Medicare For All Act of 2019](#)

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Housing

Relief

- Keep people in their homes during the pandemic and economic meltdown; continue federal stimulus checks and supplementing unemployment payments
- Place federal and state-level moratoriums on evictions
- Pass the Heroes Act, which includes funds for rental assistance
- Pass the Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act (S. 1605, H.R. 2914). To address barriers preventing access to FEMA help, and rental help to people displaced by disasters through the Disaster Housing Assistance Program
- Federal government subsidize rent and mortgage payments for the duration of the crisis; include immigrants regardless of status
- Permanently amend [HUD's Mixed-Status Rule](#) to provide access to federal housing assistance regardless of immigration status of family members
- Pass the [Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act \(S.3685, H.R. 6820\)](#) to provide emergency rental assistance during the pandemic
- Enforce the federal enforcement mechanisms of the [Fair Housing Act \(Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968\)](#) including punitive damages and attorneys' fees as the Act provides

Recovery

- Pass the [Green New Deal for Public Housing Act](#), to retrofit public housing and provide workforce training for residents
- Enact a federal [Home Owners Loan Corporation](#) (HOLC) modeled after the HOLC provided in Roosevelt's New Deal; ensure loans are available to all
- Repeal the [Faircloth Amendment](#), which bans any net increase in public housing units
- Pass the [Fair Housing Improvement Act of 2019](#) to prohibit discrimination based on source of income (eg., voucher holders, alimony, child support) or veteran status
- Increase funding for affordable housing programs at HUD and the USDA Increase block grants to states to build, rehabilitate, or preserve housing targeted to extremely low income (ELI) households
- Allow underwater homeowners to write down principal to the value of the property, and refinance to take advantage of cheap federal credit, limited to the price of the median home following the guidelines of [Obama's Plan to Help Responsible Homeowners](#)
- Provide civil and criminal penalties against mortgage holders and services for deceptive practices during repackaging and refinance negotiations; require explanation of optional payback choices, such as paying at end of loan term
- Join with the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) NLIHC to support the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition working to increase resources for affordable housing and community development

For Reform and Recovery [Read more](#)

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Immigration

Relief

- Release or parole all immigrants from detention in order to protect public health
- Impose an immediate moratorium on putting immigrants in detention during this public health crisis
- Reunite all children with their families immediately
- Improve all detention center conditions immediately
- End the 587(g) program under which local sheriffs cooperate with ICE.
- Permanently end mandatory detention of immigrants

Recovery

- End federal [prison sentences and criminal prosecution](#) of immigrants crossing the border seeking freedom, safety, opportunity or to reunite with their families
- Allow immigration judges the discretion to consider individual circumstances during deportation proceedings
- Allow immigration judges to revisit previous decisions made under the harsh 1996 immigration laws
- Ban local police from acting as deportation agents or otherwise doing the work of ICE

Reform

- Pass the [Dream ACT](#) and the [New Way Forward Act](#).
- Ban for-profit immigration jails
- Abolish ICE
- Limit deportation for drug convictions and other minor offenses that result from disproportionate enforcement in communities of color
- Allow previous deportees to apply to return home to the US

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Law Enforcement and Related Legal Reform: Re-Imagining Policing in America

Relief

- Adjust internal [metrics](#) of success for law-enforcement agencies (LEAs) to encourage only taking action in response to violent crime or property crime
- End focus on minor crimes/"[broken window policing](#)"
- End no-knock warrants
- Require rotating duties to reduce trauma and standardized required, regular mental health check-ups for all LEAs, an annual mental physical, with free, confidential, follow-up treatment, with a secondary aim of normalizing engagement with mental health treatment
- [Establish Civilian Boards](#) for all hiring, firing, promotion, reviews, disciplinary actions, [composed of volunteers or paid professionals](#) (as necessary) chosen by the community
- Eliminate [School Resource Officer](#) (SRO) positions
- [Immediately end](#) all [military training and the acquisition of any military hardware](#). End the [Pentagon 1033 Program](#)
- Prohibit deployment of SWAT teams, and similar groups, except in [response to an escalating situation](#) where a more heavily armed and armored team is required, specifically hostage-barricade and active shooter situations
- [Body cameras](#) must be worn and activated in all cases, with reasonable exceptions for searching subjects, domestic incidents, and those involving children
- Constant training must become a part of the law enforcement officers' (LEOs) daily lives, including [de-escalation](#), use-of-force training, and adoption of a duty-to-intervene
- End all assistance to and cooperation with ICE which is not legally required
- Establish [Safe Injection Sites](#), coupled with cops no longer enforcing laws against personal possession, run by health departments or substance abuse treatment facilities
- Require all LEOs on law enforcement duty (as opposed to undercover, investigating incidents, or providing personal security) to wear identifiable uniforms and use marked vehicles. Agencies without uniforms must have identification and badges worn visibly

Recovery

- Shift responsibility for many emergency calls to more [appropriate professionals](#)- mental health, substance abuse, report writer, etc. These will not be police. They will be in a separate, unarmed, organization
- Establish, expand, and fully-fund state-run [Mobile Crisis services](#), routed through 911 operators and a series of services for mental health and drug abuse
- Technology should be used to further limit encounters with LEOs whenever possible

For more Recovery and Reform [Read more](#)

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Science/Energy/Environment

Relief

- Create a federally funded Job Corps paying a living wage for testing for COVID19, nationwide contact tracing, and disinfecting hospitals, clinics and public buildings

Recovery

Federal:

- Create a federally funded Climate Conservation Corps to weatherize homes and businesses, build out intra-city light rail or bus rapid transit, build the federal inter-city high speed rail plan, restore and protect threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems and clean up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites
- Fund and install widespread rural broadband (similar to the 1930s Rural Electrification)
- Streamline permitting and help fund offshore wind energy and its transmission lines
- Fund publicly-owned wind, solar, geothermal, and storage resources
- Expand funding for a modern smart grid for both transmission and distribution
- Establish a national Green Bank to provide low-interest loans for green infrastructure
- Fund urban multi-modal public transit and EV charging and electrify truck stops

North Carolina:

- Create an NC Green Bank to help farmers, businesses, and homeowners finance energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy
- Allow third-party electricity sales
- Require utilities to use 100% clean energy by 2030

Reform

- Rejoin the Paris Agreement and restore science to the forefront of US policy
- Enact a national Clean Energy Standard to reach 100% carbon-free energy by 2030
- Ban fossil fuel infrastructure and new oil and natural gas pipelines on federal lands
- Ban fracking, mountaintop removal coal mining, coal ash ponds, and offshore drilling. Ban all new pipelines, refineries, and coal, oil, and gas export terminals.
- Identify and eliminate all subsidies for fossil fuel infrastructure
- Finance a state and local transition to electric bus fleets and clean school buses
- Require electric vehicles (EVs) as an increasing percentage of US manufacturers fleets
- Provide grants to families and small businesses to trade in their cars for electric vehicles
- Establish a national zero-carbon building standard for new buildings
- Restore US [EPA programs and regulations](#) that have been gutted since 2016

North Carolina:

- Change the state mandated utility rate structure to performance-based ratemaking
- Require monopoly utility Integrated Resource Plans to analyze zero-fossil fuel by 2030, and require compliance with the most cost-effective path to it. [Read more](#)

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Systemic Racism

Relief

Criminal Justice

- End [cash bail](#) system
- Remove or [ban public displays of symbols of racism](#), including the confederate flag
- End [mass incarceration](#) of people of color
- Legalize marijuana, vacate prior convictions, and expunge criminal records, including prostitution
- Empower NC counties to request [Citizen Oversight Boards to investigate complaints of misconduct](#), including subpoena power
- Establish a process to make it easier for the public to request [Body Camera Access](#) to provide transparency until sufficient criminal justice reforms have been enacted
- Limit Participation in the [1033 Program](#) which arms law enforcement agencies with certain surplus military equipment
- Fully participate in the [FBI's incident data system](#) tracking instances of police use of force and expand this to include that there be a database of officers who have improperly applied use of force accessible to the public online.
- Implement [Duty to Intervene](#) which requires an expectation of intervention.
- Fund Mental Health Response Teams
- [End immigration detention](#)
- Ban [for profit prisons](#)
- Eliminate [school to prison pipeline](#)

Economy

- [Increase minimum wage to \\$15/hr.](#) and then tie to living wage or inflation
- Enforce rules against [redlining](#)
- End the [wage gap for people of color](#)
- Establish a [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) to begin the groundwork for reparations ([H.R.40 - Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act](#), Conyers, 2013)

Education

- Implement [NC Leandro education recommendations](#) to provide equal education opportunity to all NC students
- Provide supplemental instruction for all students not meeting the standard in reading and math and specifically, ensure that all regular education [students read on grade level by the end of 3rd grade](#) without using grade retention
- Provide [public education about systemic racism](#) and its remedies to children and adults

For more Systemic Racism Relief, Recovery and Reform [Read more](#)

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Taxation

Relief

- [Suspend the “use it or lose it” aspect of dependent care flexible spending accounts, so that people who have funded such an FSA but can no longer use it can get a refund](#)
- Forgive property taxes for people who lost their jobs during the pandemic, with Federal funding of local governments for the lost tax revenue
- Suspend the NC 2% local sales tax on “qualifying food”
- Reinstate a progressive NC income tax system, in which higher earners pay a higher marginal tax rate than lower earners

Recovery

- Repeal the 2018 NC Tax Cap Amendment, which limits NC’s maximum marginal tax rate to 7%, so that higher earners can contribute more to NC’s recovery
- Eliminate the Social Security wage base cap to help secure retirement benefits for our elderly
- Fully fund the IRS’s enforcement efforts, reversing the decades-long decline in enforcement audits of high-income earners. Additional tax collected would far exceed the increased cost of enforcement

Reform

- Eliminate preferential treatment of investment income, which delivers more than \$200B in tax savings to high earners and is an important cause of income and wealth inequality
- Subject all personal income to Social Security tax, which would make Social Security sustainable with no need to reduce benefits and would even allow the Social Security tax rate to be lowered
- Fundamentally reform our individual income tax system, focusing on simplification and fairness, eliminating the myriad tax breaks for high earners
- Fundamentally reform our corporate income tax system, focusing on simplification and fairness, and making it difficult for multinational corporations to evade taxes

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Women and Families

Relief

Federal:

- Increase federal funding for SNAP, WIC, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) for recipients without access to other food sources
- Support [SNAP Online Purchasing](#), include delivery services; expand it to all states

North Carolina:

- Extend food benefits as allocated by [NCDHHS FNS](#) (Food / Nutrition Services)
- Fund local food banks and programs like Meals on Wheels
- Fund food distribution centers for needy, and distribution of food to isolated individuals
- Expand WIC eligibility to low and middle-income caregivers who participate in programs such as foster care, medical assistance or SNAP

Recovery

Federal:

- Ensure that Section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 is continuously funded with other existing appropriations acts; increase funds to cover all in need
- Provide additional funding for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and the Sexual Assault Services Program
- Provide maternity health care to all
- Reverse the Title X “gag rule” that bans doctors from giving patients full information

North Carolina:

- Participate in the [SNAP Online Purchasing Flexibility Act](#)

Reform

Federal:

- Pass the ERA to make equal rights for women a right under the constitution
- Support S. J. Res 6, which removes the ERA ratification deadline
- Expand the [Equal Pay Act](#) and other [workplace anti-discrimination laws](#) to all employees
- Support [national paid family leave](#) including paid parental and home care leave
- Provide funds for Medicare recipients aligned with their medical, financial, and personal needs, and include the option to employ family
- Remove USDA Secretary’s authority to distribute funds under Food & Nutrition Act
- Increase federal funding under Title X Family Planning Programs

North Carolina:

- [Make North Carolina the 39th state to ratify the ERA](#)
- Expand North Carolina’s Family Leave Policy to include all parents and caregivers
- Revise NC’s medicaid rules to recognize spouses and parents as paid caregivers

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READ MORE

Economy and Employment

Immediate full and flexible federal funding of \$2 trillion for state, county, city and other local governments [newly experiencing a collapse of revenues](#) while their expenses for emergency assistance leap. We must immediately rescue state and local governments and their budgets for police, firefighting, medical services and public health, education, [community colleges](#), libraries, plus rescue local businesses and charities. \$1 trillion is for immediate needs, and another \$1 trillion is a pre-authorized reserve to **ensure that the funding inadequacies of the CARES Act and other legislation is NOT repeated again**. State and local governments should be [hiring hundreds of thousands of new employees right now](#), but instead are being forced to lay off workers. Because county, city and local governments issue business licenses and have historic knowledge of their local businesses and charities (such as payroll and banking information), these [regulatory authorities are better equipped to provide oversight](#); are better judges of local needs; and are much more interested in helping and rescuing businesses, charities, and other participants in their local communities, and therefore should be entrusted with a generously funded Small Business Rescue run not by commercial banks (which have [failed miserably](#) with the [Payroll Protection Program](#) and also [exacerbated racial inequalities](#)). In addition to rescuing local small businesses, local governments can also rescue local charities, including religious groups, that provide food and meals, shelter, medical services, and other emergency services (in many communities local governments already coordinate with, and provide funding to, local charities, such as food banks and homeless shelters).

Reform Wall Street, and the financial, banking, and monetary systems

- Implement Senator Sanders' [Real Wall Street Reform](#)
 - Break up too-big-to-fail banks and end the too-big-to-jail doctrine (which the Justice Department uses as an excuse to not prosecute financial crimes)
 - Reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act
 - Audit the Federal Reserve and make it a more democratic institution
 - Cap interest rates, overdraft fees, mandatory daily minimums, and ATM fees and allow every post office to offer basic and affordable banking services
 - Eliminate [high frequency trading](#) in financial markets.
- Define stock buybacks as fraudulent price manipulation; mandate corporations disclose timing and extent of buybacks to shareholders, as was done before [1982 SEC rule change](#)
- Prohibit ["mark-to-model"](#) valuation of financial derivatives in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). If you can't discover a real price, then there isn't a market for it

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- [Eliminate hedge funds](#), which create a two tiered-financial system (minimum investment requirements of hedge funds exclude all but the most wealthy; such exclusion is an assault on the basic principle in a republic that all citizens are equal before the law)
- Establish international agreement for new managed exchange rate system (references [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))
- [Reintroduce usury laws](#)

Reverse Republicans’ 2013 dismantling of unemployment insurance in North Carolina. “[At the end of 2019, less than 9% of unemployed North Carolina workers were receiving unemployment benefits – benefits that averaged a paltry \\$265 per week.](#)” This makes North Carolina’s unemployment insurance system the [worst in the nation](#). [Actions recommended by Bill Rowe](#), general counsel and deputy director for advocacy at the North Carolina Justice Center:

- Change North Carolina’s weekly benefit calculation
- Increase the maximum benefit amount. This will also put more money in workers’ pockets post July 31 when the federal add-on of \$600 ends
- Increase the maximum duration someone can receive benefits
- Address roadblocks created by the state’s low “earnings disregard”
- Adopt Work-Sharing/Short-Time Compensation Option for Employers

Create employment recovery and training programs. Over 30 million people in USA have lost jobs in March through May 2020, and many of those jobs have been destroyed permanently. Only the federal government has the capacity and means to provide immediate employment for millions of people--as was proven by the New Deal. New jobs programs to repair and build new infrastructure, assist in contact tracing, disinfecting, and sanitization, and other work, and can be modeled on the New Deal [Public Works Administration](#), [Works Progress Administration](#) and [Civilian Conservation Corps](#).)

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Education

[Leandro Report](#)

“Entitled “[Sound Basic Education for All: An Action Plan for North Carolina](#),” the report explains that despite near-unanimous agreement that “the future prosperity and well-being of the state’s citizens requires successfully educating *all* of its children...North Carolina’s current education system fails to meet the education needs of many of its children and thereby fails to provide for the future success of these individuals, their communities, and the state.”

In fact, the report found that “the state is further away from meeting its constitutional obligation to provide every child with the opportunity for a sound basic education [today] than it was when the Supreme Court of North Carolina issued the *Leandro* decision more than 20 years ago.” Accordingly, the report provided eight “critical needs” for the state to address in order “to ensure that every child receives a sound basic education:”

1. Revising the state funding model to provide adequate, efficient, and equitable resources;
2. Providing a qualified, well-prepared, and diverse teaching staff in every school;
3. Providing a qualified and well-prepared principal in every school;
4. Providing all at-risk students with the opportunity to attend high-quality early childhood programs;
5. Directing resources, opportunities, and initiatives to economically disadvantaged students;
6. Revising the student assessment system and school accountability system;
7. Building an effective regional and statewide system of support for the improvement of low-performing and high-poverty schools; and
8. Convening an expert panel to assist the Court in monitoring state policies, plans, programs, and progress.

Amidst the frenzied aftermath of the report’s publication, one thing is abundantly clear: it is vitally important for the future of North Carolina public education for *all* stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and, most importantly, policymakers – to quickly and zealously act on the report’s findings. Here’s why.”

“To be clear, the state’s inaction here is not mere bad policy or bad politics – it’s literally unconstitutional.”

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Government Integrity

Judicial Reform

- Require the retrospective disclosure of 5 years of federal and state tax returns by candidates for judicial appointments, and the disclosure of returns while on the bench
- Require transparency of judicial nominees, judges, and justices; include financial reports, recusal decisions, and outside speeches
- Apply the Code of Conduct for lower federal court judges to Supreme Court justices.
- Strengthen ethics requirements for federal judges
- Prevent judges from escaping misconduct investigations by leaving the court
- Prohibit courts from using sealed settlements to conceal evidence in public health, and safety cases
- Ban court enforcement of arbitration clauses and class action waivers for employment, consumer protection, antitrust, and civil rights cases

North Carolina

- Apply above federal reforms to North Carolina
- Reenact public funding and nonpartisan judicial elections

Housing Policy

Reform

- Subsidize housing equitably between homeowners and renters, eg. [federal mortgage-interest deduction \(MID\)](#) and capital gains exemptions on homeowners
- Increase the supply of affordable housing by including funds for the repair of existing units, including weatherization/energy efficiency, and construction of new units in any infrastructure package
- Include housing investments for America's low-income households in any infrastructure package
- Revise "not in my backyard" [NIMBY zoning codes](#) enacted by municipalities and counties that restrict high-density projects such as building heights
- Encouraging public transit-oriented developments
- Require developers to include a certain number of affordable units within a larger market-rate development
- Achieve [Net Zero carbon footprint](#) for all residences by 2050

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Law Enforcement and Related Legal Reform: Re-Imagining Policing in America

- [Cutting police budgets](#) and [redirecting those funds](#) towards community programs, education, and public services, AFTER shifting responsibilities and establishing new and expanded social services
- Require all LEOs hired from this point forward to have a Bachelor's or equivalent degree
- Mandate that all LEA lawsuit settlements be paid from that [LEA's budget](#) and/or the Unions/Associations if they are not restricted to hours/pay (as below)
- [Restrict](#) law-enforcement [Unions](#) to negotiating hours, pay, benefits, and so forth. They should not be involved in disciplinary matters. This includes providing legal defense, delaying post-action interviews, encouraging protest by officers (Blue Flu), or any other actions, except for those involving hours/pay/benefits
- Establish a state-wide [database](#) responsible for recording all LEO uses of force, all complaints about LEOs, and all deaths directly or indirectly involving LEOs on/in LEA property/vehicles/custody. Require mandatory reporting within 2 weeks of each incident, updated every 2 weeks for ongoing investigations. The entire database must be online and accessible to the public. A national database must also be established with the same parameters and guidelines
- Eliminate [cash bail](#) entirely and Pretrial Detention with rare exceptions for violent crimes or flight risks
- Mandate that [all fines](#) levied and [assets forfeited](#), civil or criminal, state or federal, be invested in the local community and in public services which are not law enforcement
- Eliminate the [private prison system, entirely](#)

Reform

- [Modify Qualified Immunity](#) to fit the new, narrowed, scope of police responsibilities. The parameters for what allows suspension of qualified immunity must be drastically expanded
- Eliminate all [court costs, fines and fees](#), including incidental ones. There should be no barriers-to-entry to the court system
- Decriminalize [sex work](#), [gambling](#), homelessness/poverty, and [narcotics](#). Decriminalize all other non-violent crimes that pose no threat to the community or individual lives, liberty or property. Legalize and regulate all drugs
- Establish a sustainable path to recovery for those guilty of crimes of poverty and fully fund it without exception. This will include access to [safe affordable housing](#), adequate food, access to the internet, job-skills training, medical care
- Dissolve and re-form all LEAs to fit the new, narrowed scope of police responsibilities
- Re-form prison to teach people how to grow and prosper. Focus incarceration on rehabilitation rather than retribution

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Further Reading:

Congress and Police Reform: Current Law and Recent Proposals

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10486>

Police Use of Force: Overview and Considerations for Congress

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10516>

Suggested Viewing:

[Sociology Professor Says Police 'Reform' Won't Work](#)

[13th, Netflix - A look at race and prisons in the U.S., a film directed by Ava DeVernay](#)

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Science/Energy/Environment

Recovery

- Expand federal Power Marketing Administrations and create a new one to fund publicly-owned wind (including offshore wind), solar, geothermal, and storage resources

North Carolina actions:

- Tighten the renewable portfolio standard to 100% clean energy by 2030 and eliminate the option of buying out-of-state renewal energy credits (RECs) for compliance
- Incentivize wind energy development off the NC coast

Reform

- Enact a national Clean Energy Standard administered by the EPA that applies to all power providers, climbing to 100% carbon-free energy by 2030. This would require utilities to meet 100 percent of US power demand through clean energy sources, and eliminate fossil fuel use
- Establish performance-based utility rate structures; cut the link between increased electricity sales and revenues
- Require green well completions (i.e. “plugging methane leaks”) at all remaining fracking infrastructure, phasing out such infrastructure by 2030
- Tighten auto and truck mile-per-gallon standards. By 2030 require zero emissions from new autos, medium-duty trucks, and buses
- Provide grants to families and small businesses to trade in their cars for electric vehicles
- Expand the federally funded Climate Conservation Corps created under Recovery to continue to:
 - Build out of national infrastructure for electric vehicles
 - Weatherize homes and business for maximum energy efficiency
 - Build out intra-city light rail or bus rapid transit
 - Build the federal intercity high speed rail plan
 - Restore and protect threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems
 - Clean up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites
- Require utilities to upgrade electric grids for distributed energy

Systemic Racism

Relief, continued

Environmental Racism

- End water and utility shutoffs, especially in marginalized communities.

Health Care

- [Expand Medicaid](#) immediately to improve health and save lives

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Housing

- Educate ourselves and others about redlining as a major factor in the huge disparity of wealth between Black and white families
- Address the housing crisis that disproportionately affects Black families in the service industries and other low paying jobs by enacting a Uniform Basic Income

Law Enforcement and Related Legal Reform: Re-Imagining Policing in America

- Implement [8 Can't Wait](#) reforms immediately as a first step
 - Ban chokeholds and strangleholds, Require de-escalation
 - Require warning before shooting, Exhaust all other means before shooting
 - Duty to intervene, Ban shooting at moving vehicles
 - Require use of force continuum, Require comprehensive reporting
- Transform policing into organizations that not only protect but serve communities
- Shift investments from law enforcement to strengthening communities
- Prosecute people who make frivolous complaints against Blacks and other People of Color
- Ban “[No Knock Warrant](#)” attacks
- [Ban use of tear gas](#), chemical agents and rubber bullets
- Prosecute police who kill unarmed people and those who assist in the killing or do not intervene
- Hold police and sheriff departments criminally accountable for not upholding their own policies
- Recognize right of protesters to assemble and have freedom of speech
- Support Black Lives Matter
- [Reinstate Voting Rights Act](#) and prosecute states that suppress the vote
- Support the [policy platform of the Poor People's Campaign](#)

Reparation

- Begin work of reconciliation by listening and joining [conversations about race](#) to heal wounds, bring people together, increase understanding, and build empathy
- Support local [Truth and Reconciliation Commissions](#) as ways to develop consensus on the roots of systemic racism, its continuing harm, and why and what reparations are needed

Recovery

Criminal Justice

- Prohibit the use of past criminal history to determine eligibility for housing, education, licenses, voting, loans, employment, and other services ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- End privatization of police, prisons, jails, probation, parole, food, phone and all other criminal justice related services [A Vision for Black Lives](#)

Economy

- Provide financial support of Black alternative institutions such as cooperatives, land trusts, and community health care infrastructure ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))

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- Federal and state job programs directed toward the most economically marginalized Black people, and those involved in the care economy ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- Provide affordable equitable high quality broadband access to all of NC
- Ensure equitable access to capital
- Implement Jubilee Justice Jobs Program (see Part III, Section 4 of [Poor People's Moral Justice Jubilee Policy Platform](#))

Education

- Ban all NC policies and practices that allow [school segregation](#)
- Fully fund education budget for all NC traditional public schools to improve education quality
- Provide [universal preschool](#) for all NC children

Environmental Racism

- Fully fund public water and sanitation infrastructure that keeps these utilities and services under public control and prioritize poor, rural and Native communities that have been harmed by polluting and extractive industries. ([Poor People's Moral Agenda](#))
- This infrastructure must provide consistent, safe, reliable and affordable access to water and sanitation services such as refuse collection, containment and sewage/septic systems, so as to prevent any leaks or leaching of lead or other toxins. ([Poor People's Moral Agenda](#))
- Require siting decisions involving polluting sources to assess and mitigate or avoid impacts on marginalized communities.

Health Care

- [Improve health care for and increase life expectancy for Black patients](#)
- Increase access to prenatal care and reduce the mortality rate for Black women and babies ([Minority Health](#))
- Provide equal access and respectful, compassionate care for Trans Black women

Housing

- See [Housing Issue](#) generally for ways to address housing in the US policies
- Enforce the federal enforcement mechanisms of the [Fair Housing Act](#) (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968) including civil penalties, punitive damages and attorneys fees
- Amend the FHA to specifically prohibit redlining home insurance on a basis prohibited by the FHA
- Enforce the [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#) provision of the FHA and its accompanying rules; [defend rules against attack by administration](#)
- Address racially discriminatory housing policies by revitalizing distressed communities through public investment
- Address gentrification in formerly redlined neighborhoods to ensure that historically marginalized residents retain the benefits such as increased employment, public services and school performance

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- Address, correct, and compensate for the [intentional overvaluing of property](#) and resulting tax burden used in some localities to punish Blacks who boycotted white businesses or hosted civil rights meetings
- Address racially discriminatory housing policies by revitalizing distressed communities through public investment
- Support a [Homestead Act for the 21st Century](#) to address the racial inequity resulted from intergenerational wealth transfer
- Build community wealth by creating a public trust to purchase abandoned properties in target cities and transform them to qualified residences; while working with the city to [revitalize the community through public investments in infrastructure](#) and jobs [Law Enforcement and Related Legal Reform: Re-Imagining Policing in America](#)
- Limit [Qualified Immunity](#) for police, include a citizen board, and make decisions public
- **Reparations**
- End the “[New Jim Crow](#)’ system of mass incarceration with its unfair and racially disparate targeting and punishing of Blacks
- Enact a federal [Uniform Basic Income \(UBI\)](#) without a means test to replace paternalistic federal programs such as SNAP with its negative and racially-focused undertones, and to provide a life-sustainable entry into society for the formerly incarcerated ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- [Learn about actions by federal, state, and local governments](#) to perpetuate economic and racial discrimination against African Americans
- Learn about and share the early [history](#) of reparations in the United States

Reform

Criminal Justice

- End mass surveillance of Blacks, including [IMSI catchers](#), drones, body cameras, and predictive policing software ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))

Economy

- Encourage and [support](#) the continuation and creation of black banks, small and community development credit unions, insurance companies and other financial institutions. ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- Progressive restructuring of tax codes at local, state, and federal levels to ensure a radical and sustainable redistribution of wealth. ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- Redefine national poverty level in terms of economic security and the ability to meet total life costs of basic needs, pegged to the median cost of living ([Poor People’s Moral Justice Jubilee Policy Platform](#))
- Redefine welfare as a legal and moral right, not an entitlement (see Part II, Section 2 of [Poor People’s Moral Justice Jubilee Policy Platform](#))
- Advocate legislation that guarantees [universal housing as a human right](#)

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Education

- NCGA fund and counties provide constructive, high quality after school opportunities
- In order to implement [Leandro recommendations](#) in NC, create a mechanism to provide adequate funding to all counties, ensuring that all students do indeed have equal opportunities to high quality education
- Ban [racially discriminatory education budgets](#)
- [Cap NC charter schools at 100](#), and [end all vouchers](#).
- Invest in traditional public schools, that accept and educate all children
- Embed [race conscious pedagogy](#) into school curricula
- Support the development of and increase of [racially representative teachers](#)

Environmental Racism

- Fully fund the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to pre-recession levels
- Fully fund a transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy, including a public jobs program to transition to a green economy that will put millions of people in sustainable living wage jobs. ([Poor People's Moral Agenda](#))
- Hold all polluting industries accountable for the air, water and land they have polluted and poisoned and financially responsible for clean-up processes. ([Poor People's Moral Agenda](#))
- Establish the right of all workers to a [safe and healthy work environment](#), free from toxic exposure, without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment and restore regulatory oversight and enforcement

Health Care

- Ensure sufficient access to quality health care in ALL communities, especially Black communities ([A Vision for Black Lives](#))
- Provide training to all health care providers and students on health issues that disproportionately affect Black communities, and demand respectful communication for all patients
- Increase access and funding for Black students to attend medical schools and schools of health professions

Housing - See [Housing Issue](#) for more

- Support a [Homestead Act for the 21st Century](#) to begin to address the racial inequity resulted from intergenerational wealth transfer
- Build community wealth by creating a public trust to purchase abandoned properties in target cities and transfer them to neighborhood residents following the [Habitat for Humanity](#) partnership model; work with the city to revitalize the community through public investments in infrastructure and jobs

Reparations

- Explore community consideration of the Universal PLUS Basic Income concept of the [Movement for Black Lives](#) (M4BL), which is designed as individual reparation

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- Explore and adopt the concept of [group reparations](#) that, unlike individual compensation, could provide the opportunity for institution-building
- Advocate for the correction of institutional actions and policies that allow systemic racism
- Stand with the NAACP National Legal Defense and Education Fund in support of a [Commision](#) to study the effects of slavery in the United States; support ([H.R. 40](#) and [Senate Bill S.1083](#))
- Support the [National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America](#) (N'CBRA) in its fight for various approaches to [reparations](#), including community investments

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