

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL

In 2018, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival released its [Poor People's Moral Agenda & Declaration of Fundamental Rights](#). Its demands address systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and a distorted moral narrative that keeps these systemic injustices intact. The connections between these 5 themes are why we must continue to build power among the 140 million poor & dispossessed of this nation. Fight poverty, not the poor!

IN the District of Columbia:

Poverty:

- 43% of people in the District are [poor or low-income](#)—a total of 295 thousand residents. This includes 60% of children (73 thousand), 49% of women (175 thousand), 68% of Black people (210 thousand), 60% of Latinx people (44 thousand), and 18% of White people (44 thousand).
- From 1979 to 2012, [income](#) for the top 1% grew by 236%, while income for the bottom 99% grew 52%.

Systemic racism:

- 74% of the eligible voting-age population in DC turned out to vote in 2016, out of 512 thousand [eligible voters](#). That includes 68% of 238 thousand eligible Black voters, and 80% of 243 thousand eligible White voters.
- Of the over 2 thousand people [imprisoned](#) in the District as of 2017, about 96% are people of color.
- Black residents of the District are [incarcerated](#) at over 21 times the rate of White residents.

Militarism and the war economy:

- From 2008 to 2014, DC law enforcement received at least \$2.71 billion in [federal military equipment](#).
- DC taxpayers contributed \$2.71 billion [to the military](#) in 2018.
- Over 6 thousand veterans have incomes [below \\$35,000](#)—this is 22% of the DC veteran population as of 2015.
- The District has 2 [ICE detention centers](#) as of 2019. Over 24 thousand people were [deported](#) from DC between 2003 and 2018. Meanwhile, 25 thousand residents of the District are [undocumented](#), and 9% of K-12 students have undocumented parents.

Ecology and health:

- 21 thousand people in DC are [uninsured](#) as of 2018.
- 15% of census tracts in DC are at-risk for being [unable to afford water](#).

Family, community, and education:

- 71% of 4th graders are [not proficient in reading](#), and 79% of 8th graders are [not proficient in math](#) as of 2017.
- 134 thousand people benefit from the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) monthly as of 2016.
- As of 2015, 27 thousand children live in [food-insecure households](#), 24% of all children in Washington, DC.
- 36% of children in DC have [parents without secure jobs](#) as of 2016 – that's 44 thousand children.

Everybody's got a right to live:

- Over 6 thousand people in the District of Columbia are [homeless](#) as of 2018.
- Working at the 2018 minimum wage, it takes 91 hours of [work per week](#) to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in DC.
- 79 thousand make [under \\$15 an hour](#)—25% of DC's workforce as of 2018.
- The minimum wage in DC is \$14 in 2019. A [living wage](#) here in 2019 would be \$31.75 an hour.

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NATIONWIDE:

- Voting rights protections in many states are weaker than they were 50 years ago. 1 in 4 eligible voters isn't registered.
- The United States imprisons, detains and/or deports more people than any country in the world.
- 140 million people in the U.S. are poor or low-income – over 43.5% of the population – including 60.4% of Black people (26 million), 64.1% of Latinx people (38 million), 40.8% of Asian people (8 million), 58.9% of Native and Indigenous people (2.14 million), and 33.5% of White people (66 million).
- 53 cents of every federal discretionary dollar is spent on the military; only 15 cents goes to anti-poverty programs.
- At least 28% of children (20.7 million) in the U.S. have parents who don't have steady jobs. This includes 43% of Black children (4.4 million), 46% of Native/Indigenous children (265,880), 21% (781,935) of Asian children, 33% (6.2 million) of Latinx, and 22% (8.5 million) White children.
- 13.8 million U.S. households cannot afford water, and the poor are bearing the brunt of climate change effects.
- Native & Indigenous people are living with the ongoing legacy of genocide & systemic racism, with disproportionately high rates of poverty, homelessness, & overrepresentation in the US military, and continuous struggles to defend sovereignty & land rights. Organizers can explore native-land.ca to acknowledge the Indigenous territory on which you reside.

IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.

Contrary to common myths, our country — the richest in the world — has abundant resources to protect the environment and ensure dignified lives for all people.

- [This year](#), the richest 1% of District of Columbia residents are expected to receive 32% of the GOP tax law's benefits coming to the state. The District's richest 1% can expect an average tax cut in 2020 of \$16,580, while the poorest 20% of residents can expect an average tax cut of just \$50.
- The District's contribution to [the country's endless wars](#) in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond totals \$24.3 billion since 2001, and could instead have created over 16 thousand new jobs in clean energy, or placed every DC child in Head Start early childhood education programs, or covered Medicaid for over 303 thousand adults for the past 18 years.
- The District of Columbia has spent at least \$225 million in [public subsidies for corporations](#) over the past five years that could have instead gone to our communities and our needs.

As revealed in the [Poor People's Moral Budget: Everybody Has the Right to Live!](#), it is possible to invest society's resources to establish justice, domestic tranquility, security, & the general welfare for all.

- It would take \$750 million dollars over five years to implement automatic voter registration and make our democracy more secure. This is 1/1000 of the \$750 billion that are being committed to the Pentagon in 2018.
- If we cut \$350 billion in annual military spending, we would make our nation and the world more secure.
- We could raise \$886 billion in estimated annual revenue from fair taxes on the wealthy, corporations, & Wall Street to meet our urgent social & ecological needs.
- For every \$1 invested in early childhood education, society would gain \$7.30 due to reduced poverty, lower incarceration rates, & better health outcomes.
- Inaction on climate change could cost \$3.3 trillion per year for the U.S. economy – the equivalent of five Great Recessions every year. A \$200 billion per year investment in clean energy transition would begin to address climate change and create 2.7 million new jobs.

Read more from the Poor People's Moral Budget here: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/budget

Everybody has the right to live!

