There are more than 241,306 poor and low-income voters in Rhode Island and 85 million across the nation. Together, we account for one-third of the electorate. Together, we can ensure that the days of poverty and low-wages - and the unnecessary cruelty of abandonment amidst abundance - are numbered. Together, we can revive the heart and soul of this democracy to ensure dignity and justice for all. Forward together, not one step back!

Poverty and Low Wages
- Living Wage Calculator: https://livingwage.mit.edu/
- Hours of Work to Afford Housing: https://mypr.go/pr
- Households and student debt: https://www.newyorkfed.org/mt/regions/metric/find.html

Rolling Back on Basic Needs
- SNAP Cuts: https://frac.org/research/resource/life-ina-role-state-fact-sheets
- Tracking Evictions: https:// evictionlab.org/ eviction-tracking/

Health Care and the Pandemic
- Paid Family and Medical leave: https://www.nationalpartnership.org/explore/research-publications/key-facts-paid-family-and-medical-leave

Militarism
- Warfare State: https://op.cqpress.com/policy-guides/preparedness-and-war-preparations
- Veteran Suicide hotline: https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/prevention/vet-suicide-prevention-data.asp

The Souls of Poor Folks: Auditing America
- Gun Violence Archive: https://gva.md/activateSiege
- Mapping Police Violence: https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/registration

Key Resources
- Fight Poverty, not the Poor!
- Indeed, the first governing principle of the US Constitution is to establish justice.
- If we do not want to enable this wrongdoing, we must speak out and stand up against it.
- This is why the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is organizing across the nation: to reveal these injustices, change the narrative, and build our power.

For more information and resources, visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.
IN RHODE ISLAND:

Poverty and Low-Wages: Poverty is a policy choice, reflecting both low wages and high costs of living. These two conditions make it hard to meet basic needs and easy to fall into debt. In Rhode Island:
- Between 2018-2020, there were 337,000 poor and low-income people, accounting for 32.2% of the population.**
- To meet their basic needs, a household with two adults and two children needs to earn over $25/hour. However, the current minimum wage is just $13/hour. At this wage, an individual must work 85 hours/week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.
- There are 149,802 people, or 27.1% of the workforce, earning less than $15/hour. This includes 127,162 adults and 20.2% of Asian and Native workers, 43.8% of Black workers, 46.4% of Hispanic workers, 22.3% of white workers, 34.3% of working women and 54.1% of working women of color.
- Average household debt rose 7% in 2022 to an average of $58,580.
- Average student loan debt held by households was $5,550 at the end of 2022.

Rolling Back on Basic Needs: Pandemic relief policies temporarily lifted the load of poverty, but ended too soon, resulting in higher rates of economic, food and housing insecurity. In Rhode Island:
- In 2021, 185,000 children in 118,000 households received the expanded Child Tax Credit and 48,000 low-wage workers without children received the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. The expansions contributed to a dramatic decline in poverty, but ended in 2022.
- In 2022, 139,400 people relied on expanded SNAP (food stamps) benefits to feed themselves and their families. However, in 2023, SNAP benefits were reduced by $90-$250 / month, cutting them down to $6 / day. At least 81,072 households will be impacted by these cuts.
- At the beginning of 2023, more than one year after eviction protections were ended, 42,040 households reported being behind on their rent or housing payments.

Health Care and the Pandemic: Across the country, approximately 1,000 people are still dying from Covid every week and millions of people lack access to health care. In Rhode Island:
- During the most intense period of the pandemic, 45,100 people were uninsured.
- With the ending of continuous eligibility for Medicaid, 68,400 people are estimated to lose access to health care.
- Between 2019 and 2020, Rhode Island experienced a 1.3 year decline in average life expectancy.

Climate Crisis and Ecological Devastation: Extreme heat, storms and drought are becoming more common, with poor and low-income communities at greatest risk. In Rhode Island:
- Over the past century, the state has warmed 2.2 degrees Celsius, which is 1.1 degrees more than the global average. As this trend continues, food production, spread of diseases, and health will all be adversely impacted.
- Precipitation patterns have also changed, with increased risks of flooding, drought and water scarcity.
- The percentage of poor and low-income household income that goes towards energy costs is 5 times greater than what an average income household spends on energy.

Militaryism: Government spending that prioritizes war, mass incarceration, excessive policing, and anti-immigrant forces is leading to greater violence, fear and criminalization of the poor. In Rhode Island:
- In 2023, taxpayers will contribute $291.73 million to Pentagon spending, $82.96 million to immigration enforcement and $90.95 million to nuclear weapons.
- Over the past 30 years, $2 million in military equipment (tanks, drones, combat rifles and ammunition) has been transferred from the Pentagon to state and local law enforcement.
- Between 2001-2020, 308 veterans committed suicide.
- In 2021, 64 people were killed by gun violence.
- There are 1,287 people incarcerated. As of April 2023, 60 immigrants are in detention.
- From Oct 2002-June 2022, over 194 people were deported from Rhode Island.