

Thu, Feb 15, 2024

# CALIFORNIA



*The lead-up to the March 2 Mass Assembly is well underway. Whether or not you attended the national press conference and pep rally, we hope you'll join us next Tuesday for our last big pregame push. Details below, plus a recap of the pep rally, a report on a meeting between Bishop Barber and Vice President Harris and more. Forward together!*

## Announcements



### **Coordinated state press conferences and meetings with elected leadership**

**Tuesday Feb. 20, livestream at 11am | [CA PPC Facebook page](#)**

Join us online, where community leaders will share their stories and concerns as we head into the state legislative offices to make our demands: calling the state legislature to the task of creating the Third Reconstruction. This is part of our lead-up to the March 2 Mass Assembly (see below).



### **Mass Poor Peoples—No and Low Wage Workers Assembly at the State Capitol**

**Saturday March 2, Capitol West Steps | [RSVP](#)**

**11am: Gather (site to be announced soon!)**

**11:30am: March to Capitol**

**12:00pm: Rally**

On March 2, California will be joining states across the country in simultaneous actions that will call on our elected officials to address the needs and concerns of 140 million people living in poverty, including a shocking 18 million in California. We'll be bringing our demands for living wages, healthcare, housing, education, environmental justice and voting rights directly to our lawmakers at the Sacramento State Capitol. Together we are taking back the mic!

Join supporters from the top of the state to the bottom as we launch our voter mobilization campaign in California!

**SIGN UP**

Need more convincing? Watch the [promo video](#) and read a recap of our virtual pep rally below.

### **Calling all faith communities! Here's how you can help**

Communities of Faith can help our mobilization in special ways. Some ideas for the next two weekends:

- Include information in your bulletin or newsletter about March 2
- Preach about us at your services
- Have an offering designated for the California PPC

Not sure where to start? We have [materials](#) to help.

## Meetings

### **Statewide organizing meetings**

**Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)**

Help us organize for the March 2 rally in Sacramento and other 2024 efforts. You'll meet activists from around the state and take part in mobilizing our communities for these historic actions. It's a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another. Drop in any Wednesday.

## News



### **Bishop Barber visits VP Harris at White House**

Bishop Barber and Reverend Kazimir Brown, executive director of Repairers of the Breach, paid a visit to Vice President Kamala Harris last week. Sharing the news on [social media](#), Bishop Barber wrote, “@VP invited me as new director of @theology\_policy to pray & discuss the fight for democracy & the need for a White House meeting w/ poor & low-wage people. I’m glad Rev Kazimir Brown could join me to lift up the movement for living wages & a Third Reconstruction.”

### **“An initiative promised 20,000 homes for mentally ill Californians. It has delivered far less.”**

A recent [CalMatters](#) piece tells the story of the 2018 ballot measure known as No Place Like Home, which promised 20,000 permanent housing units for unhoused people, with mental health services attached. Five years later, just 1,797 units have been built. Hurdles have included red tape and residents being unwilling to have the housing units

in their neighborhoods (NIMBYism). The reporting includes the history of the program, the importance of voting and a mention of the California Department of Housing and Community Development's plans to build a total of 7,702 units.

This report is further evidence of the urgent need for Congress to listen to the demands of poor and low-income people who are mobilizing to vote and to pass [H.Res.532](#) to ensure fair housing and eviction protection—and for California to pass the [Justice for Renters Act](#), which will be on the November 2024 state ballot and is endorsed by CA PPC.

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## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

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## Recap



### **California highlighted at national pep rally**

At Monday's national virtual pep rally, Rev. Monica Cross, one of the quad chairs of the California PPC, kicked off the lineup of testifiers with a powerful moral statement. After quoting several passages from the Gospels, she told us, "If I am to sincerely follow the teachings of Jesus, I must stand for healthcare for all."

Testifiers from across the country recounted their struggles and explained why they will be organizing in 2024, reminding us that our votes are our demands.

The event, which included a rousing state-by-state roll call and lots of PPC music, closed with part of the speech Bishop Barber gave earlier this month at Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College and University. He focused on the theme "It's Time to Make History" and ended with a lesson on the alphabet: "In this

moment when you need to make history, take the A and Accept the challenge of every day; take the B and Be all you can be...”

You get the idea! Watch the whole [pep rally](#), be inspired by the testimonials and this speech and get ready for our mobilization!

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*