

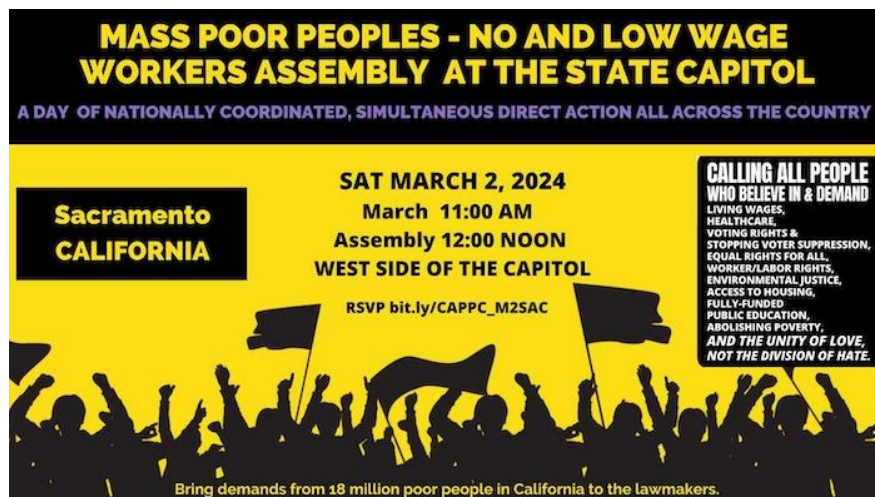
Thu, Feb 22, 2024

# CALIFORNIA



*This week's press conference in Sacramento set the stage for a truly powerful Mass Assembly. Read on for photos and testimony, and don't miss our updates on March 2 logistics and press. Bay Area people, check out the invite to a forum on the upcoming primary election. Finally, we're thrilled to share that Southern California hospital workers continue to win better deals with some of the region's biggest hotels.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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

Our Mass Assembly is less than two weeks away! As you're getting ready to go, check out these details for the day.

- 11am: Gather at Westminster Presbyterian Church (1300 N St, Sacramento CA 95814)
- 11:30am: March to Capitol
- 12:00pm: Rally

We'll 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! Let us know you're coming...

**I'M IN**

Need more convincing? Watch the [promo video](#).

#### 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.



## San Jose District Six Candidate Forum

Sunday Feb 25, 1–2:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Temple Emanu-El (1010 University Ave, San Jose CA 95126)

On March 5, San Jose will vote for several offices in the Primary Election. California PPC is part of the Together We Vote coalition in San Jose and Santa Clara counties. Exciting things are happening: we've been doing phone banks and canvassing, and we're organizing Candidate Forums, like the one this Sunday. All are invited.

This is a nonpartisan candidate forum, and all candidates have been invited. The questions will come from the needs and concerns expressed by community members through our listening campaigns. Our Together We Vote Primary Election coalition includes PACT, Sí Se Puede Collective, SV Rising, Working Partnerships, USA, CA Poor People's Campaign, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Alpha Public Schools.

## 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.

## RECAP



### **Powerful voices at the CA state press conference**

California PPC was at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Tuesday as part of simultaneous actions across the country to announce the details of our campaign to mobilize poor and low-wage voters statewide ahead of November's election.

You'll find photos and testimonials on the [CA PPC facebook page](#). Better yet, you can watch a video of the whole event!

### **WATCH VIDEO**

Attendees pledged to wake the great, untapped power of the “sleeping giant” of poor and low-wage people and vowed to train hundreds of local supporters to engage voters and drive them to the polls. Here's a taste of the testimony:

“People are our most valuable resource. We need policies in place that give a helping hand instead of policies that pull people further down the caste systems ladder. Can someone please explain to me how towing someone's mode of transportation, loaded with everything they own, solves the problem of unhoused human beings? WE HAVE THE POWER FAMILY. Somebody is hurting our sister, somebody is hurting our brother, and we are not going to take it anymore. VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!!”

—Sister Brenda Joyce Newman, Sacramento chapter of the California PPC

“Wealthy people and businesses are able to contribute and influence politicians who in turn use their positions to repay donations with favors. Poor people don't have the funds to influence and are forced to organize to create a voting bloc. Given their daily struggles, they almost never create critical mass, so decisions are made for them without them. We are disenfranchised and need real representation. That's why I am organizing unhoused people to vote.”

—Robert Aguirre, formerly unhoused; officer in the National, California and Santa Clara County Union of the Homeless

After the press conference, a delegation met with the staff of key elected officials to give them this message:

“Poor and low-income voters have the power to influence elections, and we’re mobilizing our people to the polls. Our voices and our lives matter. We won’t be silent anymore!”  
—Quad-Chair Rev. Monica Cross

Here’s why we’re speaking up: In California, there are 7,280,000 poor and low-income eligible voters, including 3,771,000 white voters, 2,446,000 Latino voters, 491,000 Asian voters, 286,000 Black voters and 2,900 Indigenous voters. Together, they account for 25 percent of the electorate. Learn more on the [CA PPC fact sheet](#).

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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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## NEWS



### It’s time to come together!

#### **Bishop Barber mobilizes voters in Moral March to the Polls**

Bishop Barber and PPC activists spoke in the North Carolina towns of [Asheville](#) and [Hickory](#) this past week as part of 42 weeks of PPC voter mobilization and education.

In Hickory, he urged audience members to look at one another and say, “Neighbor, I don’t have to like everything about you, but can’t we organize for power? Can’t we stand for justice? Can’t we love everybody?”

On President’s Day, Bishop Barber spoke with Joy Ann Reid on MSNBC’s [The ReidOut](#). “We’re launching a 42-week effort to reach 15 million poor and low wage voters in a very

targeted way,” he said. He went on to share the margins of victory in a number of states, illustrating how turning out just 20 percent of those votes can “shake up the entire political calculus in this country.”

Bishop Barber shared more on the power of low-income voters on [Instagram](#):

“Low-income voters accounted for at least 20% of the voting electorate in 45 states in 2020— and that share grew to near or above 40% in battleground states, including states that flipped or retained very small margins of victory. The reality is that poor and low-wage people have the power to fundamentally shift elections. Our voices and our lives matter. We have the power, and now we must use it.”

**“Poor People’s Campaign announces effort to mobilize 15 million poor, low-wealth voters in 30+ states ahead of November election”**

In its Sunday paper, the [Philadelphia Sun](#) covered the PPC national press conference to mobilize voters across the country and the actions planned at state houses around the country on March 2.

The article quotes Bishop Barber: “We declare today that poor and low-wage voters are coming together with religious leaders and moral advocates to say, ‘Our votes are demands.’ Not merely votes for personality, but votes for policy. If a politician wants these votes, then they must talk to these voters like they have never talked to them before.”



**Further victories for Southern California hospitality workers**

PPC partner Unite Here Local 11 announced that more major hotels are signing new contracts to pay their workers a living wage in Los Angeles, including four Hyatt hotels. Follow the progress on Unite Here Local 11’s [Facebook page](#).

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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).*