

Thu, Apr 25, 2024

CALIFORNIA



If you've been itching to get out the vote ahead of the November election, we have good news: Next Monday, the PPC launches its 2024 voter-outreach campaign, which includes this year's March on Washington. Watch the press conference on Monday—but first, check out our recaps of the recent multi-city actions for housing justice.

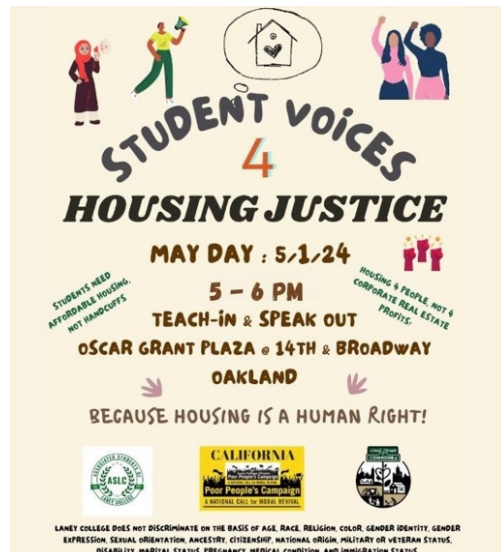
Announcements



March on Washington press conference announced

Monday April 29, 7am PT | [Livestream](#)

Watch the official announcement of the **Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Moral March on Washington and to the Polls**, which will take place in Washington, D.C. on June 29. This will mark the beginning of our outreach to 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters throughout the 2024 election season.



Student Voices for Housing Justice Teach-in

Wednesday May 1, 5–6pm

Oscar Grant Plaza (14th & Broadway, Oakland)

Join the Laney College PPC chapter as it continues its series of teach-ins with a May Day “Student Voices 4 Housing Justice” teach-in and speak-out at Oscar Grant Plaza, because housing is a human right!

Meetings

Statewide organizing meetings

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

Our Wednesday meetings are a time to meet activists from around the state and take part in educating, registering and mobilizing our communities for these historic actions and the November election. It’s a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another.

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday May 5, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Join us as we begin our voter outreach and find out how you can help. We'll also discuss how to be a part of the national Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Moral March on Washington and to the Polls, even if you can't travel to D.C. All are welcome—please invite your family, friends and communities.

Recaps



Multi-city day of action: Activists rally ahead of SCOTUS decision

PPC activists supported WRAP and other coalition partners in rallies held Monday in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento as well as Washington, D.C., as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *The City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*. If the case is overturned, it could make life for the nation's unhoused population even more challenging. (The court's decision is expected by the end of June.)

In **San Francisco**, community members and leaders from WRAP, APTP and the Coalition on Homelessness, among others, called for “house keys, not handcuffs” as the rally moved from the Federal Courthouse to the Supreme Court building and finally to City Hall, where impacted individuals from Wood Street Commons spoke and PPC activists painted a mural on the sidewalk (pictured below). Watch video coverage from the [local press](#).

In **Los Angeles**, people camped out the night before outside the courthouse and held a community speak-out in the morning after listening to the Supreme Court oral arguments. Several PPC activists, including quad chair Nancy Berlin, joined the action, organized by LA CAN and WRAP. Nancy spoke to [CalMatters](#) about the magnitude of harm that could come to unhoused individuals if the Supreme Court overturns the ruling. “It would be like a California earthquake to have all those people criminalized and arrested,” she said.

In **Sacramento**, the Sacramento Homeless Union along with many local activists gathered at the courthouse to speak out. Watch video coverage from the [local press](#).



The San Francisco street mural. (This story's top photo is also from San Francisco.)



The L.A. speak-out.



Activists in Sacramento.



Bishop Barber and others gather on the U.S. Supreme Court steps

On Monday's day of action, Bishop Barber spoke to a crowd of hundreds, including impacted people, local PPC activists and leaders of faith, in Washington, D.C. The livestream of the gathering was shared on [social media](#), where Bishop Barber wrote, "Across the country, hundreds of thousands of our neighbors are being pushed out of homes and onto the street. This isn't simply their choice; it's the result of policy choices by elected leaders."

Speaking to the crowd in D.C., he said, "You know, the president's in public housing, so we ought to be able to do it for everybody." Speaking about a study commissioned by Repairers of the Breach, the PPC, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and the Kairos Center, Bishop Barber lamented that "there is not a county in this country, in the 21st century, in the wealthiest country in the world, where someone working a full-time job at the current minimum wage can even afford a basic two-bedroom apartment. Not one county."

He went on to put the actual numbers of poor and low-wealth people in the U.S. into context: "More than 50 million Americans today earn less than a living wage of 15 dollars an hour. We know that there are tens of millions of Americans who can't afford a place to live, who are on the brink of homelessness, who are homeless some part of the year." Watch the [video](#) of Bishop Barber speaking outside the Supreme Court.

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

News

“Do homeless people have constitutional rights?”

In sync with the multi-city day of action, a [Religion News article](#) was published on Monday, based on interviews with several faith leaders about why they filed in support of Johnson, or against criminalizing the unhoused, ahead of the Grants Pass v. Johnson hearing.

Among those interviewed were our own Rev. Theoharis and Shailly Barnes, policy director for the PPC and the Kairos Center. “Whether it’s from the Hebrew Bible or the Old Testament or New Testament or from Islam or prayers from Hinduism,” Barnes said, “we see just this widespread value of care, not punishment, not making conditions worse for people who are already suffering...and suffering in fact because of society’s limits and not their own.”

The Kairos Center shared the article on [social media](#), quoting Rev. Theoharis, who made it plain: “Criminalizing, exploiting, and hurting poor and unhoused people is an affront to God and to Christianity itself, and to other religious traditions themselves.”

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.