NAACP
Virginia State Conference

2026 Legislative Priorities

As we enter the 2026 Legislative Session, the NAACP Virginia State Conference reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing justice, equity, and opportunity for all Virginians. Our legislative agenda reflects a bold and comprehensive vision—one that confronts the systemic inequities impacting our communities and champions transformative solutions across voting rights, education, health care, economic justice, and environmental protection.

We recognize that meaningful change demands more than incremental reform—it requires courageous leadership and sustained advocacy. This year, we are focused not only on defending the rights and well-being of historically marginalized populations but also on dismantling the structural barriers that perpetuate injustice. Together, we will work tirelessly to ensure that every voice is heard, every community is empowered, and every individual has access to the resources and opportunities they deserve. With purpose and determination, we will advance policies that reflect the values of equity, dignity, and shared prosperity—and we will not rest until justice is realized for all.

Democracy and Voting

Voting Rights The NAACP Virginia State Conference stands firm in the belief that every voice matters and every vote counts. We will advocate for legislation that seeks to ensure that individuals who have completed their sentences automatically regain their voting rights without further administrative hurdles. We will emphasize enhancing voter protection against suppression and gerrymandering, along with expanding early voting access and secure drop box availability.

Student Rights and Freedom of Speech on College Campuses Advocating for the protection of students' First Amendment rights, our advocacy seeks to ensure clear guidelines for peaceful protests, transparency in campus policies regarding student activism, and protections against retaliation for lawful expressions of views.

Education Innovation

Education The NAACP remains steadfast in its commitment to dismantling systemic inequities in public education and advancing policies that affirm the dignity of every student. We will advocate for reforming the education funding model to provide equitable resources to underfunded districts and implement a culturally inclusive curriculum that reflects diverse histories. It also focuses on increasing teacher diversity and advocating for student loan debt relief for graduates in critical need areas.

Board of Visitors Reform The NAACP Virginia State Conference will advocate for the democratic appointment process that involves a selection committee comprised of students, faculty, alumni, and community representatives, ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of Virginia's higher education system; and operate in an uninfluenced, "culturally" inclusive, and educationally focused manner.

Health and Wellbeing

Health Consistent with the NAACP's commitment to advancing health justice and protecting bodily autonomy, we will champion legislation for comprehensive reproductive rights, equitable healthcare access, and targeted interventions to eliminate racial disparities in health outcomes. Our advocacy will include Medicaid protection and telehealth access, emphasizing addressing healthcare disparities for marginalized communities, reducing maternal mortality rates, particularly among Black women, and enhancing access to mental health services.

Inclusive Economy

Minority Small Business Economic equity is crucial to racial equity. We will advocate for increased funding and grant programs for minority-owned businesses, establishing business development centers for mentorship and financial literacy, and ensuring fair access to government contracts for these businesses.

Race and Justice

Criminal Justice Key reforms include eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement to enhance accountability, advocating for sentencing reform by eliminating mandatory minimums, phasing out private prisons, and simplifying the expungement process for non-violent offenses.

Juvenile Justice This initiative promotes rehabilitation-focused programs for juveniles, seeks to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, supports raising the minimum age for prosecuting juveniles as adults, and emphasizes the need for comprehensive mental health services within the juvenile justice system.

Sensible Gun Laws This campaign advocates for comprehensive gun control measures designed to enhance public safety and reduce gun violence.

Fair and Equitable Housing

Housing Grounded in the NAACP's commitment to housing justice and the eradication of structural racism in housing policy, we will advocate to increase funding for affordable housing, particularly in gentrifying areas, strengthen tenant rights through rent control and eviction protections, expand anti-discrimination laws related to housing, and support homelessness prevention programs.

The NAACP Virginia State Conference will advocate for the adoption of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Grant Program Proposal.

Environmental and Climate Justice

Environmental and Climate Justice. Our advocacy will address environmental racism by protecting marginalized communities from pollution and unfettered development, such as data centers and highways, while ensuring equitable access to clean air and water. It also emphasizes climate resilience investments in vulnerable areas and the creation of green jobs focused on empowering minority and low-income Virginians.

Constitutional Amendments

The NAACP Virginia State Conference affirms its support for the 'Right to Vote", Marriage Equality, Reproductive Freedom Constitutional Amendments.