

Rise Up

# JOIN ANTIRACIST ACTIONS NOW **Summer 2021 Tool Kit**



Credit: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-01-07/7-foot-fence-to-be-set-up-around-capitol-grounds>

## Fight Voter Suppression

Thanks for taking action against voter suppression.

### **ACTION #1 Contact Senate Leaders**

Call or email Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to pass federal bills:

#### **The John Lewis Voting Rights Act**

- restores preclearance, the federal oversight in states that try to pass laws limiting voting rights.

### **The For the People Act (S1)**

- bold and comprehensive voter protection bill that regulate elections in states

To the Schumer call add this language on the filibuster: *“Please introduce reform to the filibuster to the Senate floor so that the two voting rights acts can pass.”*

#### **Contact Schumer:**

Telephone: 202-224-6542

Email: <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

**Contact McConnell:** Best reached by

**ACTION #2 Call both of your State Senators to ask them to pass both federal bills:** • John Lewis Voting Rights Act

• For the People Act

New Yorkers you already called Schumer, now contact Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand Telephone: 202-224-4451

Email: <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me>

Residents of other states call your two Senators. Find them through the link to USA.gov <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

email

Email: <https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/indx.cfm?p=contact>

Telephone: 202-224-2541 weekdays office hours only



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**ACTION #3 Join Riversiders and Reclaim Our Vote in phone banking** every Tuesday, 5-7pm, or join other Reclaim Our Vote phone banks.

**Contact: Sumati Devadutt** <[devadutt.s@gmail.com](mailto:devadutt.s@gmail.com)> for more information. Future critical phone banking and postcard writing campaigns will open soon for elections in November 2022.



**The Poor People's Campaign** is another engagement opportunity that pulls together all the themes of voter suppression, environmental racism, mass incarceration/immigrant detention, and poverty. The PPC is creating federal and state level actions supporting a congressional resolution entitled, "Third Reconstruction: Fully Addressing Poverty and Low Wages From the Bottom Up."

THE THIRD RECONSTRUCTION RESOLUTION: As the moral agents of our time, and drawing

Reconstruction following the Civil War and the Second Reconstruction of the

Credit: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/20/us/mass-poor-peoples-assembly-and-moral-march-trnd/index.html>

on the transformational history of the First civil rights struggles of the 20th century, we need a Third Reconstruction to revive our moral and political commitments to democracy and the founding principles of the country. With this resolution, we

- (1) acknowledge the deep harms we have suffered from systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of health care, militarism and the false narrative of white supremacist nationalist extremism and
  - (2) commit to heal and transform the nation by addressing these interlocking injustices, beginning with those most impacted, with moral and just laws and policies.
- There are 140 million poor and low-income people in the United States— we can't wait another 50 years for change to come! The time to act is now.

**ACTION #4: Make a commitment to support PPC** local and national actions. Use this website for upcoming calendar events across the nation: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/take-action/>

- For more information go to: <https://www.3rdreconstruction.org>
- Get on the phones with the NYS Poor People's Campaign next phone bank party, held every month on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30PM ET. • Call U.S. Representatives and press them to sign on to this PPC resolution! How to contact your rep: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>



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## Fight Environmental Racism

Pollution, industrial development, dirty air and water, and isolation from viable employment disproportionately affect communities of color and marginalized people, creating high rates of disease and unhealthy living conditions.

The Climate and Community Protection Act (CCIA) provides

### Action To Take

Credit:

<https://ecojustice.ca/environmental-racism-in-canada/> **Local**

funding for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) passed in 2019.

### What is the New York State Climate and Community Investment Act?

For more details go to: <https://www.nyrenews.org/what-we-do> or • <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s4264>

### ACTION #1 Urge NY Assembly to Pass

#### CCIA:

Email, write a letter to your New York State Assembly member:

<https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/email/>

Call your Assembly Member and Senator

- Monday – Friday
- after 9 am
- 518-455-2800

### Federal Actions To Take

**ACTION #2 Email, write a letter, or call** your US Senators and Representatives and ask them to vote for the **THRIVE Agenda**.

**Sample letter to Your U.S. Senators and Representatives\***

Dear Senator (or Representative) X,

*I'm writing to ask you to support President Biden's American Jobs Plan and the THRIVE Agenda. President Biden's American Jobs Plan is a vital first step toward long-overdue investments in our aging infrastructure that will help our nation recover from economic devastation and build a more just, clean energy economy.*

*We need Congress to build on the American Jobs Plan and go bolder! Please deliver a recovery package that is even bigger, to meet the multiple challenges we face. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest at scale to address the interlocking crises of climate change, mass unemployment, economic inequality, and racial injustice.*

*The THRIVE Act provides a roadmap to a just recovery on all these fronts. The THRIVE Act calls for \$1 trillion in economy-wide investments each year for the next decade, bound by strong labor, equity, and environmental standards. New economic modeling shows that this is the scale of investment needed to create 15 million good jobs and end the*



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*unemployment crisis, cut climate pollution in half by 2030, and curb racial, economic, gender, and environmental injustice.*

*I urge you, as you develop our infrastructure package, go big and bold and align it with the THRIVE Act to better address climate change, support workers, and tackle racial injustice.*

*Sincerely, \*This sample letter closely follows suggested language from the Sierra Club.*

**In NEW YORK**

Contact Senator Kristin Gillibrand at <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me>

Contact Senator Chuck Schumer at <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

**In NEW JERSEY**

Contact Senator Corey Booker at <https://www.booker.senate.gov/contact/write-to-cory>

Contact Senator Robert Menendez at [https://](https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact/email)

[www.menendez.senate.gov/contact/email](https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact/email)

**Find your U.S. representative:**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> Call (202)

224-3121 for the U.S. House switchboard operator to be directly connected or visit your member's website.

**ACTION #3 Write to President Biden** and ask him to support the THRIVE Agenda and urge him to support a rapid phase-in of electric vehicles.

## Fight to End Mass Incarceration and Immigrant Detention



**End Mass Incarceration:  
Local Actions**

Before the New York State

Legislative session ended on June 10th, 2021, legislators passed the **Less Is More Act** which prevents those on parole from being sent back to prison for technical violations, but did not pass the **Clean Slate Act** which would have sealed certain criminal convictions after a set period of time.

Credit: <https://qz.com/458675/in-america-mass-incarceration-has-caused-more-crime-than-its-prevented/>

Learn more about the **Less Is More Act** here:

[https://www.lessismoreny.org/what\\_does\\_the\\_less\\_is\\_more\\_act\\_do](https://www.lessismoreny.org/what_does_the_less_is_more_act_do)

Read about the **Clean Slate Act** here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ddd73a9e6903359f16ed36f/t/6082d514bd20307dc6530912/1619186964792/CSNY-One-Pager.pdf>



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### **LESS IS MORE ACT Urgent Action**

**ACTION #1 Sign/Fax the Letter** demanding that Governor Cuomo sign the Act into Law

[https://www.lessismoreny.org/lessismoreny\\_fax](https://www.lessismoreny.org/lessismoreny_fax)

### **CLEAN SLATE ACT**

**ACTION #2 Sign Letter to NYS Legislators To Support Clean Slate-s1553a/A6399.**

Clean Slate legislation is crucial to ensure that the 2.3 million New Yorkers with conviction histories—who are disproportionately Black and Brown— can fully and fairly participate in our shared communities and be a vibrant part of our state's economy. We all need access to jobs, housing, and education in order to live safely and securely, but people with convictions are repeatedly blocked from these life essentials, sometimes for life.

- Send a letter today by going to: <https://www.cleanslateny.org/take-action>
- View the letter to Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Cousins here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ddd73a9e6903359f16ed36f/t/60ed922afb5306426ed0e2e9/1626182186213/Open+Letter+on+Clean+Slate.pdf>

### **IMMIGRANT DETENTION is:**

- Multi-million-dollar business
- Began 40 years ago, ICE and CBP have a 25B budget
- Detained more than 52,000 people a DAY in 2020

- Immigrants have committed no crime but are locked up in prison type



centers, often for-profit facilities, as they wait for a decision on their asylum case or legal status.

- Kept from 4 weeks to 2 years
- Not guaranteed legal representation.
- No accountability, widespread violations with improper sanitation, poor health care, frequent verbal, physical and sexual

Credit: The Washington Post/Getty Images Copyright: 2019 The Washington Post

abuse.

For a comprehensive study of Immigrant Detention, go to the Riverside Church program on "Welcoming the Stranger: The Racial Impact of US Immigrant Policy and the Call of the Church" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuqGjTQ3wvY>



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## **End Immigrant Detention: Local Actions**

### **ACTION #1 Stop immigration detention in the NY/NJ area**

NJ Contacts for

The New Jersey Detention Bill

Write or call:

Governor Murphy (NJ)

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/all/>

NJ Legislators from areas with current detention contracts: Hudson, Essex, Bergen and Counties:

Send a message to your State legislator(s), please take a moment to complete this form.

<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>

NY Contacts for Ending ICE Detention

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8fyFK>

[Xk2wgK83KuFP18Ghy4PHzFbkbMcDp-H4ETphiCpJQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8fyFKXk2wgK83KuFP18Ghy4PHzFbkbMcDp-H4ETphiCpJQ/viewform)

## **End Immigrant Detention: National Actions**

**ACTION #2 WRITE or CALL** to take Action to stop immigrant detention

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas Secretary of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528

Operator: 202-282-8000 Comment Line: 202-282-8495

Tell Secretary Mayorkas to defund ICE and stop the use of for-profit detention centers and seek humanitarian release with monitoring (bracelets) for those currently held who seek asylum and have only civil violation relative to their immigration status.



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