

**Education is the
most powerful
weapon which you
can use to change
the world.**

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Resolutions & Recommendations

2016 NATIONAL BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION

2016 National Black Political Convention Black Agenda Recommendations

The 2016 National Black Political Convention was presented by the National Policy Alliance in Gary, Indiana June 9-12. Black leaders from across industries, lifestyles, educational backgrounds and other factors came together to discuss the state of African Americans in America. The following recommendations are the product of open, lively, and even contentious discussion of the needs of our people. These demands represent the passion and pain of those in attendance for this historic event, echoing the energy of the original convention held in the same city 44 years ago. Here is a living document, to be updated and more importantly, acted upon, as we select our next President, Congressmen, and local officials.



EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

1. Better prepare Black students for college.
2. Expose them to more opportunities and to different cultures.
3. Expose them to different career options.
4. Empower athletes so they value their education more than their athletics.
5. Increase the number of Black professors at all higher educational institutions. (when Black students see Black professors it helps with their motivation to succeed).
6. The money should follow the education.
7. Promote HBCU's in our communities.
8. Fix the public school systems in our country.
9. Decrease dropout rates.
10. Improve sciences (STEM), specifically computer sciences in our schools.
11. Promote parents' involvement throughout a child's educational experience.
12. Close the achievement gap.
13. Sharing best practices.
14. Diversity mandate must be in a mission – if a city or county accepts federal money as a part of educational excellence. Hold them accountable.
15. Create a transparent and accountability metrics.
16. Put resources behind a mission statement and a comprehensive effort.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCOME INEQUALITY

1. Prepare our youth and train our workforce to be more skilled.
2. Training and apprenticeships, where a job is waiting.
3. PWE program (paid work experience). Employees pay to be trained on the job as an alternative to traditional courses.
4. Development skill sets that are sustainable.
5. Look at local markets and the skills needed.
6. Focus on business development and creating an environment that will attract businesses.
7. Transform our communities by recreating economic development programs.
8. Promote building trades profession which will expose opportunities and then give Blacks jobs opportunities.
9. Evaluate public policy and make changes to reflect current demographics and economic environments.
10. Hold public officials accountable.
11. Increase and expand business venture exploration, explore Green energy, solutions and global borders through entrepreneurship.

12. Support Black financial institutions who can then support Black businesses and entrepreneurial endeavors.
13. Think and prepare 10-15 years ahead.
14. Create an app for Blacks with jobs, contracts, trades and other networking opportunities.
15. Look at the job trends to determine what we should focus on in the future.
16. The National Black Agenda it has to be policy driven that leads to enforcement.
17. Promote the “four stools” of self-sufficiency:
 - a. Build where we live
 - b. Grow what you eat
 - c. Manufacture what we use
 - d. Buy where we own

ENERGY

1. Blacks should get involved with energy programs, careers and policy development.
2. Access to affordable, reliable energy is crucial to economic progress. Low-income families, many in the Black community, spend as much money on energy as they do on food.
3. Innovation and technology are key drivers of economic development and advancing progress in the Black community.
4. Policies that subsidize electric vehicles and solar panels for the wealthy raise energy prices and harm the Black community.
5. We should explore all energy options, including oil, natural gas and alternatives, and make clear decisions as to which are best for your home, work and/or business.
6. Get educated about programs, policies, policy development, contract opportunities, STEM or educational programs in the energy industry, such as oil, natural gas, and alternatives.
7. Do an energy audit of your home, office and/or workplace.
8. Know what is happening in your community relating to YOUR grid system and how it impacts your energy costs.
9. Take this discussion across America to many Black communities, HBCU institutions and to Black policy makers.
10. Partner with those who know and can help.

SOCIAL MEDIA, MARKETING, NONPROFITS AND BLACK AGENDA RESOURCES

1. Get the Black Agenda from the table to the people.
2. Develop a collective goal and reclaim our self-sufficiency.
3. Work together. Our progress has to reach home.
4. Develop collective economic engagements: pool our resources to achieve a collective goal, such as utilize empty churches, elders teaching children how to read, transfer knowledge and education, support entrepreneurship.

5. Research housing land use and community reinvestment accounts.
6. Amplify our stories - learn to invest the time instead of the money.
7. Create a social media profile (as an official, business or organization).
8. Interacting with your constituents, customers, clients, supporters, members regularly is essential.
9. Become a top Tweeter – its effective throughout the year, not just at election time.
10. The more you share - the world become your neighborhood.
11. Do perception research through social media.

JUSTICE AND REFORM

1. Enlarge our political footprint.
2. Get more involved in the political process.
3. Address health and jobs – speak to the quality of life. Not a one-person solution. It is going to take our creativity to address our problems.
4. Utilize our veterans, they are ready to work and better understand civil responsibilities. Engaging veterans – give us a mission.
5. Meet with the youth and ask them what they need or want.

THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Create more re-use centers.
2. The environmental field needs to go through a renaissance with more green jobs.
3. Create jobs specifically for Black people, working at the grassroots and state levels.
4. Become involved with environmental politics, such as public service commissions and become a part of the conversations surrounding your community, as well as nationally.
5. Make connections and put all the pieces together.
6. Look for opportunities to collaborate. Find common interests and partner.
7. Utilize organizations like Black in Energy as a resource.
8. As citizens – watch permitting, zoning and other critical matters.
9. Question everything! Create community benefits agreements (CBA).
10. Advocate for clean jobs.
11. Increase proportionate political representation.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

1. Take advantage of resources that offers free pharmaceutical costs, such as website NACO to reduce pharmaceutical costs across the nation.
2. Be aware of human trafficking in your area and across the country. Blacks are highly affected. Don't dismiss it. Hold people accountable.
3. Educate the public on health matters (screenings, severity, awareness), how to improve a condition (eating healthy, drinking water, pain management).
4. Health care providers need to drop bias, provide appropriate drugs, free screening, and promote resources for new medications and safer means for stem-cell and bone-marrow transplants.
5. Participate in more longitudinal studies based on actual black patients to create more accurate findings and results.
6. Support more federal and state money for grants to improve national and grassroots efforts which will encourage and promote change.
7. Promote education and awareness on ALL health issues that impact African Americans.
8. Erase stigmas of people afraid to touch or to be close to anyone with an ailment.
9. Housing units set asides for veterans and for women in domestic disputes.
10. End the bashing of Black men to Black women which impacts Black families.
11. Promote good health, healthy foods and eating and reduce medical costs.
12. Create higher expectations for Black people. Valuing our lives, can make a difference.
13. Remind ourselves that black is beautiful, and not allow ourselves to be portrayed in a negatively light.
14. Participate in and support clearly defined medical research studies, ask for and get a seat at the decision making tables when set-up is being done and results are presented.
15. Promote and advocate for participation of Black representation on boards and institutions that conduct research – public and private entities.

BLACK VETERANS

1. Utilize Human Restorative Development Centers as a resource for veterans.
2. Create support systems for Blacks in Black communities.
3. Develop a cultural framework for healing, i.e. the requirements for Black veterans need to be tailored for them.
4. There needs to be an emergency response system in our communities.
5. Create kiosks highlighting African American history.
6. There should be counselors to assist veterans, located within their communities.
7. Share Black veteran stories - Blacks need to lobby for themselves and do their own healing.

8. Educate Black veterans to take advantage of federal business and educational opportunities.

OUR NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

1. Give commitment with conditions. Be in the discussions from the beginning. Tell each entity of our expectations and consequences are if agreements are not met.
2. We must have a collective voice – not a few individuals speaking for all.
3. Vote in OUR best interests.
4. Black unity needs to be re-established.
5. Applaud young people in organizations like Black Lives Matter, NAACP, etc.
6. Know “the rules” are before making decisions.
7. Fight for federal, state, and local employees.
8. Demand full complete and equitable access to jobs, housing, etc.
9. Stop talking and prepare for action.
10. Hold all officials accountable.
11. Develop a strategic tactical maneuver – build coalitions – everybody has a role.
12. Stop getting upset with each another.
13. Teach the responsibilities of voting.
14. Add a sense of urgency to young people
15. **BE UNAPOLOGETIC and unafraid – we are here to have an agenda.**