

NAACP

New York State Conference

The NAACP New York State Conference 2025 Legislative Agenda

The NAACP New York State Conference is the New York programmatic arm of the oldest civil rights organization in the country, the NAACP. Through its 54 Branches, the State Conference has played a pivotal role in advancing the vision of the NAACP to build a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

BUDGET PRIORITY POSITIONS

Education

ELFA Part B – Universal Free School Meals: The NAACP New York State Conference supports this Executive proposal.

ELFA Part C - Prohibition on Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day: The NAACP New York State Conference *conditionally supports* efforts to curb cellphone use in schools and to create a distraction free environment that is conducive to learning. **Executive Budget language must be modified to guard against the foreseeable increase in suspensions as the removal of students from the classroom as a result of the implementation of this policy would entirely defeat its purpose.** Instead, school administrators should be instructed to develop consistently applied policies based on a statewide standard that encourages the responsible use of technology.

Criminal Justice

PPGG Part B - Streamline and Clarify Discovery Requirements: The NAACP New York State Conference opposes this Executive proposal.

Housing and Economic Empowerment

ELFA Part G - Combat Home Appraisal Discrimination: The NAACP New York State Conference supports this Executive proposal.

ELFA Part J, Part M: The NAACP New York State Conference supports efforts to increase and develop the affordable housing supply in the State.

Miscellaneous

New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies: The NAACP New York State Conference worked to secure passage of this legislation and remains committed to its purpose of examining the institution of slavery and its vestiges in New York State. The State Conference strongly recommends an extension of both funding and of the deadline given to the Commission to complete its work.

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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES*

Education - Preparing our Next Generation of Leaders

The NAACP New York State Conference will continue to fight to ensure that every child has access to a quality education in an environment that fosters their academic and personal growth and advancement. This requires adequate staffing and equitable funding for our schools that should be distributed pursuant to a formula that recognizes the individual needs of our students and their families.

The State Conference continues to advocate for full implementation and enforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act to free our students from hate in the classroom and discrimination from school administrators. We believe that the success of our students is paramount, and the safety and climate of schools must be addressed. We will continue to advance solutions to the challenges experienced by both educators and students within the classroom; solutions that prioritize healing over punishment and that do not inhibit our students' opportunities to advance and succeed.

S.134 (Jackson) / A.118 (Solages) Solutions not Suspensions: This bill reforms school suspension policies by including restorative approaches to discipline in school codes of conduct and limits the use of suspension in schools.

S.4154 (Sanders) / A.2362 (Solages) New York HOPE Act: This bill introduces fair hiring practices in schools statewide.

S.2237 (Gounardes) / A.2125 (Walker) Fair College Admissions Act: This bill prohibits higher education institutions in New York from utilizing information about where a prospective student's family members went to school in making their admissions decisions.

Criminal Justice - Creating a Fairer and More Just New York

The NAACP New York State Conference will continue to advocate for fairness in New York's criminal justice system. We remain steadfast in our belief that we can create safer communities without abandoning due process or the civil rights of New Yorkers. We will continue to oppose abuses of authority and unjust uses of force by law enforcement while supporting efforts to provide alternatives to incarceration. And, considering the continued permission structure for violence perpetrated by law enforcement, we will not stop demanding transparency and accountability from those charged with protecting and serving our communities.

We support efforts to improve conditions for incarcerated individuals and will continue to call for an end to the culture of abuse and dehumanization that is commonplace in State prisons and local jails. The State

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Conference also believes in rehabilitation and in the providing of necessary programming to assist incarcerated individuals prepare for a return to their communities.

S.159 (Salazar) / A.127 (Weprin) Fair and Timely: This bill shifts the standard of review for parole consideration by allowing the entirety of an incarcerated individual's record to be considered as opposed to a prioritization of an individual's crime of conviction.

S.454 (Hoylman) / A.514 (Davila) Elder Parole: This bill grants parole consideration to incarcerated individuals who have reached the age of 55 and have served at least 15 years of their sentence, regardless of the sentence the individual is serving.

Environmental Justice - Protecting our Environment

The NAACP New York State Conference takes seriously our shared responsibility to protect our environment. We support New York's continued effort to reduce its carbon footprint and combat pollution in new ways. The State Conference supports further mitigation efforts including substantial investments in renewable energy sources and elevated standards for those engaged in regulated conduct that has an environmental impact. The State Conference will also continue to advocate for a reduction of our investment and use of toxic materials such as microplastics and PFAS.

S.187 (Hoylman-Siegel): This bill prohibits the sale of certain PFAS in household products including cleaning products, clothing, and cookware.

S.4574 (May) / A.5832 (Kelles) PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act: This bill aligns New York State law with federal guidelines to ensure that all potential polluters are required to monitor for and disclose the presence of PFAS in wastewater discharged into waterways.

Civic Engagement - Defending the Right to Vote

The NAACP New York State Conference will defend the right of every New Yorker to vote as access to the ballot box remains a cornerstone of our democracy. New York has made significant reforms in recent years by implementing Early Voting, same day voter registration and more. Still, more work needs to be done. We will support efforts to make voter registration easier and ensure that all eligible New Yorkers are able to participate in our democracy.

S.88 (Gianaris) Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration: This bill directs state agencies to share data with the Board of Election so that eligible individuals can be automatically registered to vote.

S.440 (Myrie) / A.2121 (Walker) Democracy During Detention Act: This bill directs Boards of Elections to establish policies to ensure individuals being detained in local jails are still able to participate in elections during their detention.

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Health – Demanding Health Equity

The NAACP New York State Conference will continue to advocate for expanded access to care and quality treatment for all New Yorkers. We support a moratorium on the closing of hospitals, continued investment in preventative care, and dedication of resources and advancement of policy to address comorbidities that plague the Black community.

We support and advocate for public healthcare and hospital pricing transparency. This includes collecting and making hospital financial documents publicly available, ensuring all hospital-related decisions and meetings are part of the public record, and requiring investment in and maintenance of city and state hospitals—because healthcare is a human right. We also advocate for accountability in cases of medical misconduct, revising public health laws to address cost and racial disparities in healthcare, and promoting the well-being of healthcare professionals by capping their daily working hours.

The State Conference also supports additional investments in crisis intervention teams to address mental health issues.

S.705 (Krueger) / A.2140 (Jackson) Fair Pricing Act: This bill caps health care provider prices for routine services.

S.3196 (Hoylman-Siegel) / A.4999 (Bichotte-Hermelyn): This bill prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products.

**This is not an exhaustive list of legislation supported by the State Conference, only a list of priorities for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session.*

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RECENT RESOLUTIONS

The State Conference has also recently passed several resolutions that contain policy or legislative recommendations for the State Legislature. Those resolutions include:

In Support of the Hunger Free Campus Bill – Providing Solutions for Food Insecure Students in Higher Education: This resolution is in support of **S.2637 (May) / A.1724 (Rosenthal)** ‘Hunger Free Campus Act’ which would establish a grant program to support colleges and universities that develop programs intended to combat food insecurity on college campuses.

In Support of Fixing the Education Formula: This resolution is in support of an adjustment to the Foundation Aid formula that equitably distributes funding so that all schools will have the resources needed to give all students a high-quality education.

In Support of Mandating Education Professionals Receive Implicit Bias and Fair and Consistent Intervention Strategies Training: This resolution is in support of the creation and funding of a mandate for teachers, school leaders, district leaders, family, community members, higher education faculty administrators and education department policy makers attending and participating in professional development focused on implicit bias and fair and consistent intervention strategies and practices as outlined in the NAACP Making the Grade guide and that meet the standards of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The Lorraine Brathwaite Harte NAACP NYS Hunger Reduction Solutions Resolution: This resolution, named in honor of former Health chairwoman Lorraine Brathwaite Harte, is in support of **S.594 (Hinchey) / A.282 (Gonzalez-Rojas)** and efforts to ensure that New York State follows through on its commitment to provide universal access to school meals via a fully funded free school meal program for all of New York’s students, an expansion of Farm to School options, and the increasing of purchasing power so schools can purchase higher quality, local ingredients and provide students with more creative menus.

In Support of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway: This resolution is in support of Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State’s (URCNYS) efforts to designate Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway for its tremendous historic, cultural and economic development significance.

BY EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

In Support of Stopping the Niagara Falls Goodyear Plant Continued Violation of State Regulations: This emergency resolution calls on State and Federal officials to issue a Clean Air Emergency Order to require Goodyear to stop releasing known carcinogen, ortho-toluidine (OT), in violation of state regulations into a DEC-designated environmental justice community.