



# 2022 Voter Engagement Action Agenda

Alabama Institute for Social Justice (AISJ) is committed to achieving meaningful and sustainable systems change in support of under-resourced children and families in Alabama's Black Belt. With a focus on the policy issues of child care, voter engagement, gender equity, and environmental justice, AISJ seeks to ensure a seamless transition for human success from birth through adulthood. Through collective action rooted in racial equity and social justice, we work to drive transformational change and address institutional and structural inequities that particularly limit and undermine the economic well-being of women and people of color.

AISJ's 2022 action agenda highlights the current voter engagement policy landscape in Alabama and the direction of our work over the next year to advance systemic change in public policy, organizational culture, and the public narrative within our government, businesses, and communities.

## **Voter Engagement**

Alabama has a long history of voter suppression rooted in efforts to establish and maintain white supremacy. During the Jim Crow era, Alabama embedded numerous discriminatory requirements into the state constitution including a poll tax, literacy test, and property ownership requirements, all of which were intended to disenfranchise Black and poor white voters. Many of the civil rights reforms of the mid-twentieth century, which sought to remove and prevent obstacles to voting rooted in a legacy of racial discrimination and voter intimidation, have recently been overturned.

In the wake of record-high turnout among Black and minority voters in the 2020 election, state legislative efforts to limit voting, particularly targeted at Black and minority voters, have intensified. In addition to passing numerous bills aimed at restricting voting access that disproportionately impact voters of color and enable partisan interference in election administration, the Alabama legislature also drew Congressional redistricting maps that diluted the influence of Black voters, limiting the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

## 2022 Actions

- Raise awareness of and advocate against legislation and policies reminiscent of Jim Crow era prohibitions on voting, threaten our democracy, and seek to diminish and silence the voices of Black and other marginalized citizens.
- Work to counteract generations of voter suppression and intimidation efforts that continue today by conducting voter registration drives, educational programs, and community engagement actions, ensuring voters can exercise their constitutional right to vote and have their vote counted.