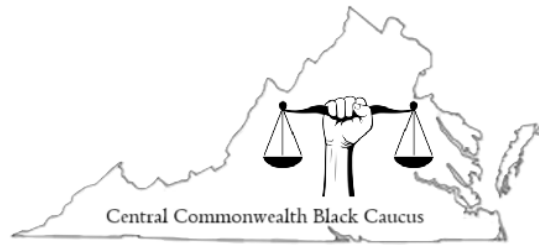


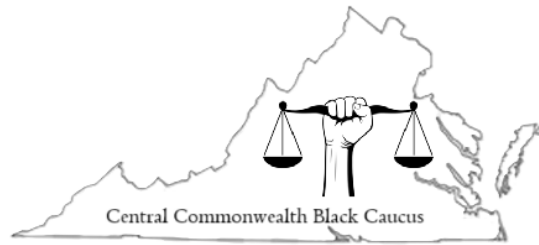
Central Commonwealth Black Caucus (CCBC)

10-Point Legislative Empowerment Plan

1. **Secure Equal Access to Political Participation** Ensure the right of every Black citizen to vote without barriers, by advocating for legislation that protects voting rights, combats voter suppression tactics, and supports full voter education initiatives in historically marginalized communities. Work to eliminate discriminatory voter ID laws and support policies that enable easy access to voter registration and absentee voting.
2. **Support Policies for Economic Empowerment** Advocate for the creation of policies that promote economic equity within the Black community, including the expansion of access to capital for Black-owned businesses, creating equitable access to state contracts, and ensuring that Black professionals and entrepreneurs receive fair representation and opportunities in the Virginia economy. This includes measures to address the racial wealth gap, such as affordable housing programs and accessible small business development initiatives.
3. **Promote Educational Equity and Access** Champion education reform that ensures Black students in Virginia receive quality, equitable education, including investment in K-12 schools in predominantly Black communities, a reinvigoration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and access to affordable higher education. Advocate for policies that close achievement gaps and implement cultural competence in curricula, fostering both academic success and personal development.
4. **Protect Black Health and Well-being** Advocate for policies that address systemic racial disparities in health outcomes, including improving access to quality healthcare for Black Virginians, expanding mental health services, and supporting maternal health initiatives. Work toward legislation that ensures equal health outcomes regardless of race, with particular emphasis on addressing the ongoing impacts of historical health inequities.



5. **Champion Fair Housing and Criminal Justice Reform** Call for comprehensive reform of the criminal justice system, including ending mass incarceration, eliminating racial profiling, and revising sentencing laws that disproportionately impact Black communities. Additionally, advocate for housing policies that combat gentrification and displacement of Black residents, promote affordable housing options, and prevent discrimination in the housing market.
6. **Promote Political Representation** Ensure greater Black representation in Virginia's legislature by advocating for redistricting reforms that prioritize fair districting and eliminate gerrymandering. Support Black candidates running for office and encourage the community to engage in the political process by voting for candidates who reflect their values and concerns. Support political training programs aimed at increasing the number of Black professionals in state government and leadership positions.
7. **Improve Public Safety through Community-Engaged Policing** Advocate for police reform that emphasizes community policing models, accountability, and transparency. Work toward ensuring that law enforcement officers receive appropriate cultural competency training to engage with Black communities in a way that respects their civil rights. Support legislation that strengthens civilian oversight of police departments and mandates de-escalation training.
8. **Advocate for Reparative Justice** Support initiatives that seek reparations for Black Virginians affected by the legacies of slavery and systemic racism. This includes advocating for economic reparation programs aimed at redressing historical injustices and investing in programs that benefit the Black community in Virginia, such as scholarships, housing assistance, and healthcare support.
9. **Support Environmental Justice** Advocate for policies that protect Black communities from environmental degradation, especially those that are disproportionately affected by pollution and climate change. Support legislation that ensures Black communities have access to clean air, water, and land, and fight against environmental practices that place an undue burden on low-income and Black neighborhoods.



- 10. Promote Civic Engagement and Leadership Development** Foster a culture of political engagement by creating leadership development programs tailored to Black Virginians, aimed at increasing political literacy and active participation. Support initiatives that help individuals understand their rights, participate in policy discussions, and assume leadership roles in public service. Encourage young Black leaders to participate in government and help shape the future of their communities.

This plan reflects the needs and aspirations of Black communities in central Virginia, grounding it in historical demands for justice while addressing contemporary issues that impede equitable political and economic representation. By aligning the CCBC's objectives with a strong emphasis on advocacy, education, and systemic reform, this framework lays a foundation for meaningful legislative change and empowerment for Black Virginians.

References

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