

2022 Legislative Priorities

- **Axe the Food Tax**

Kansas has the second highest food tax of any state, taxing these essential items hurts vulnerable Kansans the most. Removing this regressive tax at the state level will benefit Black families by allowing them to spend their hard-earned money on other priorities.

- **Protect Voting Rights**

Black men in Kansas didn't gain the right to vote until the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870, two decades later women of all races in Kansas won suffrage rights in municipal elections, and it would take until 1912 for Black women to vote in all elections in Kansas. Black Kansans Voting is now a constitutionally protected right! We oppose the implementing laws that disenfranchise our communities by limiting mail in voting, ID requirements and inflating wait times in Black neighborhoods. We support measures to increase access of all citizens to the ballot box including shorter wait times for voter registration, increased numbers of polling places and extended early voting times.

- **Ban Usury Loans**

We support the passage of laws that will significantly reduce the interest paid by Kansans for payday, title loans and bail bonds. These predatory loans target vulnerable Kansans and disproportionately impact our most vulnerable communities.

- **Teach the Truth**

Students don't need to be protected from the truth - they need to learn it. Both how far we've come and how far we still need to go. Teachers should be protected as they teach the truth of American, world and especially Black history. Suppressing the truth of Black history is disrespectful to those who fought and continue to fight for equality and freedom. We support efforts that protect students and teachers from the discomfort that their parents may feel discussing the history of our country and the real lived experiences of Black and other minority groups.

- **Respect Kansas's Black Communities**

The Kansas City metro should remain in Kansas's third congressional district. The history of segregation and redlining in Kansas City created a community of interest for the Black population in Wyandotte county. That united multiethnic community and Black communities across Kansas deserve to have their voices heard and not be ignored in the redistricting process.

- **Demand Racial Equity and Justice**

We support the recommendations put forward by the Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice. This includes but is not limited to passing the Debt Free Justice for Youth Act that would end the practice of imposing unaffordable fines and fees on youth and their families. As Black Kansas residents are six times more likely to be imprisoned than white residents we support reform of both policing and judicial policies that will lead to a more equitable and just process for Black residents and communities.

- **Fight for Livable Wages**

Livable wages are a human right. We support efforts to increase the state's minimum wage to ensure Black Kansans have a livable wage that allows them to provide their families. The Jim Crow era laws protecting low wages for tipped workers should be eliminated. Increasing affordable housing availability will help livable wages stay profitable for Kansas's Black owned businesses and Black entrepreneurs.