



# Democratic Party of Wisconsin Black Caucus POLICY PLATFORM

On June 13, 2026, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Black Caucus unanimously adopted the policy platform presented by the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus. This platform, crafted from insights gained during a statewide listening tour and engagements with districts and community partners, addresses the unique challenges faced by Black Wisconsinites and shared priorities across the state. Its goal is to advance these priorities through voter engagement and the election of candidates committed to our collective goals.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PROTECTING RENTERS

**GOAL: To make housing affordable for all, increase home ownership, and to protect tenants and renters for exploitation by:**

- Developing housing affordability programs that prioritize communities with high displacement risk such as establishing
  - The first time homebuyers program to assist Wisconsinites purchasing their first home or those who face foreclosure.
  - Investing in home repair programs, to rehabilitate neighborhoods and prioritize safety from lead poisoning, fires and other potential natural disasters
  - Prioritize renters and tenant rights and protections so they can live in their homes with dignity and without exploitation.

## EDUCATION AND LITERACY

**GOAL: To ensure equitable access to high-quality education that prepares every child for success regardless of your school district or zip code by:**

- Fully funding public schools with targeted resources for schools with low-literacy rate scores.
- Expand evidence-based literacy programs, including early childhood and reading intervention initiatives.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency in voucher and charter programs to ensure all students benefit.
- Support the development and recruitment of teachers and culturally responsive curricula to improve outcomes and engagement.

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# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

**GOAL: Create pathways to economic independence and close the racial wealth gap by:**

- Increase state minimum wage and expand access to job training in high-demand fields, including technology and skilled trades.
- Provide targeted support for Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs, including grants and low-interest loans.
- Expand state investment in economic development in underserved communities across our state.

# HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

**GOAL: Ensure every Wisconsinite has access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare and mental health support by:**

- Expand BadgerCare eligibility and mental health coverage, particularly for youth and seniors. ■ Establish a public option for healthcare
- Increase funding for community-based clinics and mobile health units in underserved areas.
- Launch statewide suicide prevention and gun violence intervention initiatives.
- Address maternal health disparities and invest in culturally competent care providers.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

**GOAL: End mass incarceration cycles and create a fair, rehabilitative criminal legal system system by:**

- Reform sentencing guidelines to focus on rehabilitation and lower recidivism
- Expand reentry programs for employment, housing, and education opportunities. Invest in alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenses.
- Increase transparency and community oversight of law enforcement practices.
- Banning Slavery in this state
- Ending Crimeless Revocations
- Fully fund our courts so that all communities have access to a fair justice system
- Legalize & Decriminalizing Cannabis so that communities wronged can reclaim their lives and reduce our prison population to focus on our most violent offenders

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# DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

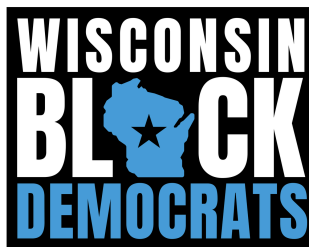
**GOAL: Protect and empower the voices of all Wisconsinites in the democratic process by:**

- Establish a Wisconsin John Lewis Voting Rights Act to
  - Ensure fair electoral maps and end gerrymandering practices.
  - Strengthen voting rights protections, including early voting access and multilingual materials.
  - Expand civic education and community-led voter outreach programs.
- Support local diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives to ensure representation in governance.

# ENVIRONMENTAL & INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

**GOAL: Build resilient, sustainable communities with safe roads, clean air, and affordable housing by:**

- Invest in road and bridge repair with safety-focused construction policies across the state.
- Launch statewide initiatives for climate resilience in communities throughout Wisconsin including Green Infrastructure
- Expand funding for energy efficiency and sustainable housing developments.
- Address environmental justice concerns, including water quality and industrial pollution in majority-Black neighborhoods.
- Establish a long term state energy plan to modernize our energy grid and decrease power outages in all communities
- Invest in Public Transportation and allow the establishment of local Regional Transit Authorities to diversify public transit options



The mission of this Caucus is to promote the involvement of African-Americans and people of African descent in the political process and the activities of the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national level. Our goal as Wisconsin Black Democrats is to be a Beacon for Black Wisconsinites and our allies where we can build and execute our collective power to deliver meanings for change for our communities.

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