

2021 Legislative Agenda



United Black Legislative Caucus MINNESOTA



Economy

Black Minnesotans face significant economic insecurity and experience higher unemployment rates, a significant wage gap, barriers to starting a business, & systemic roadblocks towards building generational wealth. These initiatives will help ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to share our state's economic prosperity.

Housing

A safe & affordable place to live is the foundation for a healthy life

Black Minnesotans have faced systemic racism in homeownership through redlining, displacement, and barriers to capital in addition to facing discrimination as renters. Our agenda below highlights ways to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.



Education

In 2019, Minnesota ranked 50th when it comes to racial disparities in high school graduation rates.

Disparities in education begin early in the lives of children in Minnesota, & current policies can foster inequities. Black students have felt the impact of COVID-19 on both their academic progress as well as their social and emotional well-being.



Health & Human Services

Minnesota's persistent & unacceptable health disparities cannot be explained by bio-genetic factors and personal choice. The racial health gap rooted in centuries of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices continues to persist today. Black Minnesotans are more likely to have poor maternal and child health outcomes, chronic health conditions, and worse experiences with COVID-19. We must work to ensure everyone has the opportunity for excellent health and well-being.

Transportation

Historically, many investments in transportation infrastructure have not only left Black communities behind, but they have also caused real harm and in some cases, have eliminated entire neighborhoods. Our investments in road, bridge, transit, and other transportation infrastructure — including walking and biking — must consider the needs of Black communities toward our entire region's success.



Public Safety

To understand the current racial disparities in public safety, it is important to understand the evolution of our systems of policing and public safety.

The current state of our policing system and the implications of mass incarceration are related to policy decisions. We must focus on reforming Minnesota's legal system to address disproportionately harmful impacts on the Black community.



Environmental Justice

Climate change and environmental pollution poses an advanced risk to Black communities. Black people often disproportionately live and work in areas more vulnerable to certain climate-related disasters and often lack the resources to prepare for or fully recover from climate-related events. Furthermore, Black communities experience chronic health conditions at higher rates than White communities, because of air & water pollution producing facilities operating near predominantly Black neighborhoods.

